



Department of Statistics
SCHOOL OF COMPUTER, DATA & INFORMATION SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Statistics-VISP
MS Statistics: Statistics & Data Science (MSDS)
New Student Information

Spring 2026

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Overview

Welcome to the Department of Statistics and the MS Statistics: Statistics & Data Science (MSDS) and Statistics track of the Visiting International Scholarship Program (Statistics-VISP or Stats-VISP) programs. The information in this guide is designed to help provide vital information on things that new students must do and know before and as they arrive on campus. Please note that some of the information is specific to students currently enrolled as graduate students through the MSDS program and some of the information is specific to the undergraduate-level Statistics-VISP students enrolled through the Division of Continuing Studies.

If you have questions during this process, please reach out to the MSDS and Statistics-VISP program coordinator, Jinda Moore, at visp-msds@stat.wisc.edu.

Statistics-VISP Specific Requirements

Statistics-VISP program policies and requirements can be found in the [Statistics-VISP Handbook](#) (must be logged in with your NetID to view). All Stats-VISP students will need to follow the program requirements and [non-degree/visiting student policies and regulations](#), and will also need to follow [policies for currently enrolled visa-holding students](#).

MSDS Specific Requirements

MSDS students, as Graduate Students, will need to follow both the program requirements and the [Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures](#). The [MSDS program requirements can be found online](#) (Program Requirements and Policies section toward the bottom of the page) in our handbook.

Housing

Listed below is a collection of resources for finding housing in Madison. This is not an exhaustive list, but instead a good place to begin looking for possible housing. It is highly recommended that new students check out any place before signing a lease. Don't hesitate to ask people in Madison for referrals of places to look and for assistance in looking at a place.

There are the places where students do (and don't) want to live. Campus parking is very difficult for students to get, so most students choose to live within walking or biking distance from campus, or near a bus line.

- [OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING MARKETPLACE](#) - This service is provided by Campus and Visitor Relations and includes listings for apartments, houses, efficiencies, rooms and

co- ops for students and the university community, along with other housing-related information. The Off-campus Housing Marketplace website also includes a [map of available housing](#), which can be used in comparison with the map on the VISP Housing website.

- The [VISP HOUSING](#) website has helpful recommendations for finding housing in Madison, which includes information about temporary homestays, furnished apartments, and renter's insurance. The VISP Housing website includes a helpful "Madison Housing Map," which divides the campus area and beyond into sections that are popular for UW-Madison students.
- Many graduate students like to live in the Vilas neighborhood and the Williamson "Willy" Street/Jenifer "Jenny" Street neighborhoods. Some graduate students and young professionals live in the apartments just west of Hilldale Mall. These neighborhoods are readily accessible to campus by both bus and bike and the general population is not undergrads. Other areas close by to those neighborhoods will also typically have good bus and bike access to campus.
- [ON-CAMPUS HOUSING](#) - Housing options for undergraduate and graduate students through the Division of University Housing.
- LARGE PROPERTY MANAGERS
 - o [Madison Property Management](#)
 - o [Steve Brown Apartments](#)
 - o [Mullins Apartments](#)
- [MADISON COMMUNITY CO-OPS \(MCC\)](#) - MCC is a cooperative community of 11 households, most within 1/2 mile of the University of Wisconsin campus, ranging in size from 8 to 34 members. Each house has a unique character and they try to create a safe, supportive family & community atmosphere.
- LOCAL NEWSPAPER CLASSIFIED ADS
 - o [Capital Newspapers](#)
- SEARCH OPTIONS, WEBSITES, AND GROUPS
 - o [Madison and Campus Downtown Living](#)
 - o [Rentable](#)
 - o [Craigslist](#)

Additionally, there is a [Tenant Resource Center](#) available in Madison.

Please be cautious and aware that there has been a recent rise in housing-related scams (some especially targeting international students). Do **not** send any individual banking information, cash, or checks until you have either visited the property or signed a lease document. If you fall victim to a housing scam, you can work with the [Tenant Resource Center](#).

NOTE ABOUT UTILITIES: When comparing the prices of different housing options, remember to

take into consideration the cost of utilities. For example, if heat is not included in the rent remember that it will likely cost an additional \$50+ during the winter months!

Enrollment

Below is a list of links that will assist in first time enrollment.

- [MyUW](#) –enrollment is online through the “Course Search & Enroll” app in MyUW
- [Information on forgotten MyUW net ID and passwords](#)
- [UW-Madison Spring 2026 enrollment deadlines – permissions & procedures](#)
- [Registrar’s Office’s Enrollment Overview](#) drop-down menu has demos and tutorials for using campus systems

Information regarding full-time enrollment, part-time enrollment, international student enrollment requirements, etc. is available on the Graduate School’s Policies and Procedures document regarding enrollment requirements [at this link](#).

You will receive additional information from the program coordinator regarding what courses you need and can take in the Spring 2026 term.

Statistics-VISP Specific Enrollment Information

Incoming Statistics-VISP students will receive an additional email regarding enrollment information and the enrollment timeline from Jinda Moore. Incoming Statistics-VISP students will begin enrolling on November 18 for Spring 2026. Please expect to receive more information about enrollment and timeline before that date.

MSDS Specific Enrollment Information

This year, new graduate students for Spring 2026 begin enrolling on November 10. It is very important to finalize your admission to MSDS and be fully matriculated so that you are able to enroll and ensure access into your preferred courses.

Enrollment Hold(s)

It is important to check your MyUW Student Center every semester before enrollment begins to see if you have any enrollment holds on your student account. An enrollment hold will prevent you from being able to enroll at the start of your enrollment appointment time. Holds can be from multiple sources including needing to complete your financial responsibility agreement, outstanding transcripts, probationary status, outstanding fees (tuition, segregated fees, library), etc.

The [Student Center navigation page](#) from the Registrar’s Office is a useful tool for understanding how to do this. If you have a hold, click on any links to see more information on how to resolve the hold or who to contact for more information. If you cannot figure out how to resolve the hold or who to contact, please email the program coordinator at

visp-msds@stat.wisc.edu.

Orientation Events

As part of your orientation into our program, you will receive an invitation to a required online orientation Canvas course. This course contains essential information about the VISP/MSDS programs, Department of Statistics, and UW-Madison. All incoming students are required to participate in the Canvas orientation course and pass the quiz with 100%.

There will also be optional (but recommended) program-specific orientation sessions for incoming students to the Statistics-VISP and MSDS programs. These recommended in-person orientation sessions for Statistics-VISP and MSDS will take place later in the week of January 12, before Spring 2026 classes start on January 20. More information about these recommended events will be shared before the start of the semester.

VISP Specific Events

Statistics-VISP students will need to attend the Division of Continuing Studies (DCS) orientation for all incoming VISP students. DCS will contact you with more information about this event.

MSDS Specific Events

As incoming graduate students, MSDS students are encouraged to attend any and all welcome events and resources provided through the Graduate School. Information on these opportunities can be found on the [Graduate School's New Students webpage](#).

International Student Specific Events

International Students must complete a required International Student Orientation and check-in. Visit [the ISS website](#) for information on orientation dates and times, and please note that there are specific sections for incoming graduate and VISP students.

Employment

Some students entering VISP or MSDS might be interested in exploring employment options on campus. If you are an MSDS student, please make sure that you review all of the important rules regarding the positions that you are eligible for (this is in the handbook, link included above in [Requirements](#)). The easiest way to find hourly jobs is through the [UW Student Jobs website](#). International students should also make sure to review information on [ISS's website regarding employment rules for visa-holding students](#).

International Student Information

Incoming international students have additional required events and steps that they need to take. If you are an incoming international student, please review the list below and confirm that you have completed everything.

- [*Complete the required International Student Orientation and ISS Check-in*](#) - check the ISS website for information
- *Get a Social Security Number (SSN)* - international students may need to get either an [SSN](#) or [ITIN](#) (Individual Taxpayer Identification Number) if you are not eligible for an SSN
- [Enroll in SHIP](#) - all international students either need to sign up for the Student Health Insurance Plan or submit a waiver if they have a campus position that includes health insurance
- *Graduate School document hold* - if you have not yet submitted your final official transcript to the Graduate School, you may have a hold on your record from the Graduate School, please check your student center to see if you have such a hold and how and when you need to resolve the hold; if you do not address the hold in a timely fashion you will not be able to enroll for courses the next semester
- Review the [Department of Statistics International Student Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) website](#)

Student Career Resources

The Department of Statistics has cultivated information related to obtaining careers. Students are welcome and encouraged to utilize this resource, and can find more information on [the Statistics Department's website](#).