

From: [Dana Maltby](#)
To: ["Dana Maltby" via ds_undergrad](#)
Subject: Fall 2026 DS Enrollment Information Newsletter (2 of 3): DS Major Course Changes
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Fall 2026 DS Enrollment Information Newsletter #2 (of 3) DS Major Course Changes

Today's newsletter has info to help you navigate the upcoming Fall 2026 changes within the Data Science major. We will send 1 additional email with enrollment advice before seniors begin enrolling.

Tip: pin this email to the top of your inbox to find information and answer frequently asked questions quickly!

[Click here for a PDF of Newsletter 1 of 3: Enrollment Information](#)

Questions, thoughts, concerns? Email your assigned DS major advisor or [contact the DS advising team](#). Please include your 10-digit campus ID.

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1. Changes to L I S 461, NEW L I S 462 Effective Fall 2026

The Information School has made changes to L I S 461, effective Fall 2026:

- L I S 461 Data and Algorithms: Ethics and Policy
 - **Change: 3 credits, lecture-only. Not Comm B.**
 - Humanities breadth, Intermediate Level, LAS credit (same as now)
 - Not open to students with credit for L I S 462.

The New Comm-B option moving forward is:

- L I S 462 Data and Algorithms: Ethics and Policy (Communications Intensive)
 - 4 credits, lecture + weekly discussion
 - **Comm B designated**
 - Humanities breadth, Intermediate level, LAS credit
 - This course counts towards the DS major's foundational Data Ethics category
 - Not open to students with credit for L I S 461.

As always, DS advisors can **never** guarantee that students will be able to enroll in a Comm B ethics class, as this is a highly popular option within a large enrollment major. Continue to plan backup Comm B courses. Contact your DS major advisor if you need help identifying Comm B options.

2. Changes to Popular Course Prerequisites

Effective Fall 2026, two popular DS major courses will see changes to their prerequisites.

COMP SCI 540 (Machine Learning):

- **New prereqs, as of Fall 2026:** (COMP SCI 300 or 320), (MATH 320, 340, 341, 345, 375 or E C E/COMP SCI/M E 532), and (STAT 311, 324, 333, 340, 371, STAT/MATH 309, 431, MATH 331, 531, or E C E 331), or grad/professional standing, or declared in Capstone Cert in Computer Science for Prof
 - **Change:** added linear algebra and probability/regression course

STAT 424 (Statistical Modeling):

- **New prereqs, as of Fall 2026:** (STAT/MATH 310, STAT 333, or 340) or (declared in Mechanical Engineering BS and one of STAT 240, 301, 302, 312, 324, 371, or I SY E 210), or graduate/professional standing
 - **Change:** regression or probability class required (not just STAT 240) or declared in Mechanical Engineering BS program
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3. Newly Approved DS Major Courses

Newly approved classes that are not currently listed in the [Data Science Guide](#) and **are offered Fall 2026** are:

- **Foundational Data Ethics**
 - NEW L I S 462 Data and Algorithms: Ethics and Policy (Communications Intensive)
 - **Prereqs:** Sophomore standing. Not open to students with credit for L I S 461.
 - PHILOS 244 Introductory Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Ethics

- **Prereqs:** Sophomore standing
- **Advanced Computing Elective**
 - COMP SCI 574 Data Management for Data Science
 - **Description:** An introduction to the principles and practices of managing and exploring different kinds of data. Work with both relational databases and Not only SQL (NoSQL) databases to organize and analyze structured, semi-structured, and unstructured data. Write basic queries, forecast time-series data, and evaluate data quality and patterns through exploratory data analysis. Explore data cleaning techniques such as interpolation and imputation, to address missing or inconsistent values. Apply data engineering techniques, including data pipelines, data warehouses, and processes for moving and transforming data using Extract-Transform-Load (ETL) and Extract-Load-Transform (ELT). Learn how modern language models can be adapted using contextual information from custom datasets and strengthened with techniques that incorporate external knowledge sources.
 - **Prereqs:** COMP SCI 320, 400, or graduate/professional standing
 - **Note:** Previously taught as COMP SCI 639 Data Mgmt for Data Science. If you completed CS 639 DMDS, you may not earn credit for COMP SCI 574.
- **Statistical Modeling Elective**
 - SOC 361 Statistics for Sociologists II
 - **Description:** Applied linear regression modeling for social scientists. Bivariate and multiple regression, dummy variables, interactions, nonlinear relationships, indirect effects and omitted variable bias, outliers, heteroskedasticity, and multicollinearity; associated diagnostics and corrections. Use of Stata and/or SAS for dataset creation and analysis.
 - **Prereqs:** SOC/C&E SOC 360, ECON 310, PSYCH 210, GEOG 360, STAT/MATH 310, STAT 301, or graduate/professional standing
 - STAT 479 LEC 003 Bayesian Statistics and Machine Learning
 - **Description:** Introduction to fundamental conceptual, computational, and practical methods of Bayesian statistical analysis and machine learning.
 - **Prereqs:** (STAT 340 and MATH 222) OR (STAT 333 and one of the following: STAT/MATH 309, STAT 311, or STAT/MATH 431)
- **Other Data Science Elective**
 - STAT 441 Advanced Sports Analytics
 - **Description:** Illustrates the use of statistical modeling and data science techniques to derive actionable insights from sports data. Emphasizes not only technical calculation of advanced metrics but also on written and oral communication to other data scientists and to non-technical audiences.

Topics may include: deriving team rankings from paired competitions; measuring an individual player's contribution to their team's overall success; assessing player performance and team strategy in terms of expected outcomes; forecasting the impact of new rule changes using simulation; and creating new metrics using high-resolution player tracking data.

- **Prereqs:** STAT 333, 340, 601, 611, ACT SCI 640, or GEN BUS 656
- **Note:** Previously taught in Fall 2025 as STAT 479 Sports Analytics. If you completed STAT 479 Sports Analytics, you may not earn credit for STAT 441.

These new courses may not appear in Guide or DARS right away due to campus publishing restrictions. If you enroll in any of these classes in Fall 2026, **they will NOT appear immediately on your major DARS. This is normal.** Advisors will submit a DARS exception to add the class to your record after the term's [course add deadline \(September 11th\)](#). You will be emailed once the class has been added to your record.

Newly approved classes that are *not* currently listed in the Data Science Guide and are **NOT offered Fall 2026 are:**

- SOC 362 Statistics for Sociologists III
 - **Prereqs:** SOC/C&E SOC 361, STAT 302, ECON 400, 410, STAT/MATH 309, or graduate/professional standing
 - **Major Category:** Statistical Modeling elective
- BOTANY/ PL PATH 563 Phylogenetic Analysis of Molecular Data
 - **Prereqs:** (BIOLOGY/BOTANY/ZOOLOGY 151, BIOLOGY/BOTANY 130, BIOLOGY/ZOOLOGY 101, or BIOCORE 381) and (STAT 240, 301, 324, or 371) or graduate/professional standing
 - **Major Category:** Statistical Modeling elective
- STAT 620 Statistics in Human Genetics
 - **Prereqs:** STAT 333, 340, or graduate/professional standing
 - **Major Category:** Statistical Modeling elective

4. Removed DS Major Course – INFO SYS 322

Due to significant course changes, **INFO SYS 322** is **no longer approved** for the Data Science major – Other elective category, effective Fall 2026.

Students who completed INFO SYS 322 prior to Fall 2026 will still have the course count towards their 18 required elective credits.
