



MS Data Science New Student Enrollment Information Fall 2026

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Introduction



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Overview

- MS Data Science Requirements
 - Sample Enrollment Plans
 - Fall 2026 Enrollment information
 - Statistics Courses
 - Computer Sciences Courses
 - Enrollment Resources
 - Questions?
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MS Data Science Program Requirements

- Statistics Core courses: 9 credits
 - STAT 611 Statistical Models for Data Science
 - STAT 612 Statistical Inference for Data Science
 - STAT 613 Statistical Methods for Data Science
- Computer Sciences Core courses: 9 credits
 - Algorithms
 - Systems
 - Humans and Data
- Machine Learning Core courses: 6 credits
 - Cannot take machine learning core in first semester per program policy
- Data Science Elective courses: 6 credits

Sample Enrollment Plans

2 Year (4 Semester Plan): May 2028 graduation

First Semester

- STAT 611 (3 cr)
- STAT 613 (3 cr)
- Computer Sciences Core (3-4 cr)

Second Semester*

- STAT 612 (3 cr)
- Computer Sciences Core (3-4 cr)
- Machine Learning Core (3 cr)

Third Semester

- Computer Sciences Core (3-4 cr)
- Machine Learning Core (3 cr)
- Data Science Electives (3 cr)

Fourth Semester

- Any remaining electives (3 cr)
 - Visa holding students may request a Reduced Course Load in their final term

1.5 Year (3 Semester Plan) Dec. 2027

Graduation

First Semester

- STAT 611 (3 cr)
- STAT 613 (3 cr)
- Computer Sciences Core (3-4 cr)

Second Semester

- STAT 612 (3 cr)
- Computer Sciences Core (6-8 cr)
- Machine Learning Core (3 cr)

Third Semester

- Machine Learning Core (3 cr)
- Data Science Electives (6 cr)

***Note: F-1/J-1 visa holding students must enroll in a minimum of 8 credits in all terms except the final semester**

UW-Madison alumni interested in an accelerated pathway should email msdatascience@stat.wisc.edu for more information.

Fall 2026 Enrollment Information

- Enrollment for new graduate students begins on Monday, June 22, at 8:00 am Central time
 - It is very important that you enroll in classes at your enrollment appointment time on this day, otherwise we may not be able to hold seats for you
- In Fall 2026, all incoming MS Data Science students should plan to enroll in:
 - STAT 611* Statistical Models for Data Science (3 cr)
 - STAT 613* Statistical Methods for Data Science (3 cr)
 - Computer Sciences core course (3-4 cr)
- MS Data Science students may **not** enroll in any machine learning core courses during their first semester

*Some students may be contacted individually for alternative course placement based on statistics background.

Fall 2026 Enrollment:

Computer Sciences Core Courses

One course from each category to meet program requirements:

Algorithms

- COMP SCI 524 Introduction to Optimization (3 cr)
- COMP SCI 577 Introduction to Algorithms (4 cr)
- COMP SCI 726 Nonlinear Optimization I (3 cr)

Systems

- COMP SCI 537 Introduction to Operating Systems (4 cr)
- COMP SCI 544 Introduction to Big Data Systems (3 cr)
- COMP SCI 564 Database Management Systems: Design and Implementation (4 cr)
- COMP SCI 640 Introduction to Computer Networks (3 cr)
- COMP SCI 642 Introduction to Information Security (3 cr)
- COMP SCI 764 Topics in Database Management Systems (3 cr)

Humans and Data

- COMP SCI 570 Introduction to Human-Computer Interaction (3 cr)
- COMP SCI 571 Building User Interfaces (3 cr)
- COMP SCI 765 Data Visualization (3 cr)
- COMP SCI 770 Human-Computer Interaction (3 cr)

Important Information about Enrolling in Computer Sciences Courses

- You are VERY HIGHLY encouraged to enroll at your enrollment appointment time on June 22
- Courses may be open or waitlisted: both options are good as an incoming student
- Many courses are in very high demand. We cannot guarantee access to a course within the desired semester.
- Please **do not over-enroll** in courses. If you do not plan to take a course, please drop it!
- How is CS course access processed? [Click this link](#) to find out!

Waitlist Processing:

- You MUST take action if you receive enrollment permission!
 - You will only have 24 - 48 hours to take action or lose the permission (as well as your waitlist position)
- It is very important that you check your **wisc.edu email** regularly in case you receive enrollment permission!
 - June 22 - July 3: every day
 - Starting the week of July 6: every Tuesday & Friday
 - Closer to the start of the semester (around mid-August): every day
- The email will begin: “Enroll in the waitlist for...”
- Note: Joining the waitlist does **not** guarantee enrollment

Enrollment Resources

- MS Data Science Program Requirements & Course Descriptions (Graduate Guide):
<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/statistics/data-science-ms/#requirementstext>
- Enrollment Overview:
<https://registrar.wisc.edu/enrollmentoverview/>
- Course Search & Enroll (must be logged in with NetID):
<https://enroll.wisc.edu>
- Course Search & Enroll Knowledge Base (must be logged in with NetID):
<https://kb.wisc.edu/helpdesk/search.php?q=&cat=8136>
- Who processes CS course access:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1wCOh_KrLBSGrPwyfFCAuuCQag8xu2jmqqREgg4tRzjY/edit#gid=0
- Drop-in Enrollment help (Friday, June 19, 8:30 - 9:30 AM Central):
<https://uwmadison.zoom.us/j/5656616126>
Note: Bring your campus ID number and be prepared to wait up to 15 minutes
- MS Data Science email: msdatascience@stat.wisc.edu



Questions?