



MS Statistics: Statistics and Data Science (MSDS)

Program Handbook

2026-2027

Department of Statistics

Consult this handbook to learn about program-specific information, procedures and resources for graduate students in the MS Statistics: Statistics and Data Science program.

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Preface

The [Department of Statistics](#) is committed to the training and education of its graduate students. To facilitate this practice, we have created this document to help guide students through their education in the [MS Statistics: Statistics and Data Science](#) (MSDS) program. The MSDS program is a named option, professional program within the broader MS Statistics. Because this is a professional program, there are additional policies in areas such as funding and enrollment. The policies of the program are overseen by the VISP & MSDS Committee.

The [Graduate School at UW-Madison](#) oversees all graduate programs and provides [policies that apply to all graduate students](#). Additionally, departments must create and oversee the specific curriculum and provide additional policies for students in their program. This document is designed to provide information and links to relevant Graduate School policies and outline departmental and program specific rules and policies.

Degrees and course requirements may change over time. However, students must meet the degree and course requirements in effect when they enter the program. In addition, administrative procedures and processes can change over time. Students are required to follow the procedures and processes listed in the current handbook. The information in this handbook is supplemental to the [Graduate Guide](#) for MS Statistics: Statistics and Data Science (MSDS), which serves as the official repository of program rules, requirements, and policies.

Students who have questions or concerns should contact the MSDS program chair, Jun Shao (shao@stat.wisc.edu) and the MSDS program coordinator Jinda Moore (visp-msds@stat.wisc.edu). Jun Shao also serves as the faculty advisor for all MSDS students.

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Navigating Policy and Resources at UW-Madison

This handbook shares important information specific to your degree program. Refer to it as you become familiar with the policies, procedures, requirements, and resources of graduate education at UW-Madison.

Program Handbook

Details program-specific information, procedures and resources. May be formatted in the form of web page or linkable document. Applicable information should be linked out to appropriate source.



Policy Library

Single, up to date resource for all university-level policies

policy.wisc.edu

Graduate Guide

University catalog of all graduate credentials awarded by the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This is the official source of truth on campus for program-specific policies regarding admission, degree requirements, funding, prior coursework and more.

guide.wisc.edu/graduate

[MSDS Program Handbook](#)

[Graduate Guide](#)

[UW-Madison Policy Library](#)

Resources and information curated by the Graduate School for prospective and current students are found on the [Graduate School website](#). The [Graduate Student Life website](#) is also maintained by the Graduate School and provides useful information for new graduate students.

How to Use This Handbook

Many of your questions about how to meet expectations and thrive as a graduate student are answered at the links above as well as in this Handbook.

Several key positions in this department and on campus are ready to answer your remaining questions:

Graduate Program Coordinator

Each graduate program has at least one department staff person, typically called a Graduate Program Coordinator, who serves as a point person for program policy and procedures. Graduate Program Coordinators are well versed in most elements of graduate education that extend beyond academic instruction in your program and will likely be your first stop for questions related to the content in this handbook. The Graduate Program Coordinator for MSDS is Jinda Moore: visp-msds@stat.wisc.edu.

Director of Graduate Studies

Each graduate program has one faculty member designated to direct its educational vision and structure.

Names and contact information of your Graduate Program Coordinator and Director of Graduate Studies are found on your program's page in the Graduate [Guide](#). Navigate to the "Degrees/Majors" tab, click on your program's name, and look for the contact information box on the righthand side.

Faculty Advisor

Each student will be assigned a faculty advisor in the graduate program in which they are enrolled. Your faculty advisor(s) will be a key source of guidance for your academic development. The [Graduate School: Advisor](#) policy provides the definition for an advisor. The "[Advising and Mentoring](#)" section provides guidelines for finding, changing, and working with your advisor.

The name and contact information of your faculty advisor is listed on your Student Center on [MyUW](#) under "Academic Progress" and then "Advisors."

Graduate School Services

The Graduate School is available for general inquiries. The contact information for the appropriate office is found on the [Graduate School's website](#).

Department and Program Overview

Please view the Graduate [Guide](#) for an overview of the Department of Statistics. The MSDS program learning outcomes can also be viewed in the Graduate Guide.

Inclusive excellence

The Department of Statistics and the MSDS program strive to create a sense of belonging among all students, faculty, and staff. We foster an inclusive environment by treating other members of the community with esteem and respect. We honor inclusivity in our department and promote this sense of belonging by working together considerably toward our common goals of teaching, community engagement, and scientific innovation. We are dedicated to serving the [UW-Madison statement on inclusive excellence](#), and we are committed to creating an environment where all feel respected and included.

Students who need to report an incident, please view the [Graduate Guide Grievances and Appeals policies](#), and/or contact the program coordinator, Jinda Moore (visp-msds@stat.wisc.edu).

How to Get Involved

As a graduate student at UW-Madison, there are a multitude of opportunities to become involved on campus and in your academic discipline. This involvement often enhances your academic, professional, and personal growth through developing advanced leadership, communication, and collaboration skills. It also provides an opportunity for professional networking.

In Our Program/Department

As graduate students in the Department of Statistics, MSDS students are welcome to join the [Statistics Graduate Student Association \(SGSA\)](#). SGSA hosts student seminars and social events with the aim of creating community and developing professional networks, cultivation of research interests, and training in modern statistical tools.

On Campus and In the Community

The Wisconsin Idea is the principle that education should influence and improve people's lives beyond the university classroom. For more than 100 years, this idea has guided the university's work.

You will find ways to engage in campus and local community life at: [Graduate School: Support for Your Wellbeing](#).

The Graduate School Office of Access, Engagement and Funding supports students from an array of life experience and backgrounds. This office helps students build a sense of belonging on campus. You can read more about participating in events hosted by the Graduate School at: [Graduate School: Community and Belonging](#).

If you are a student actively involved in leadership and service activities, consider nominating yourself for membership in the following honor society: [Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society](#).

Getting Started as a Graduate Student

This section guides you through important steps to take as you begin your journey as a graduate student at UW-Madison.

New Graduate Student Checklist

The Graduate School's ["New Students" page](#) has useful information, including the new graduate student checklist. The checklist also links to additional resources for new international students, students with disabilities, student veterans, and students with children: [Graduate School: New Graduate Student Checklist](#).

International Student Orientation

International students must complete an [International Student Orientation \(ISO\)](#) course on Canvas. It is extremely important that you complete the required ISO and Check In if you are a visa-holding international student.

Graduate Student Portal

The [Graduate Student Portal](#) allows you to complete actions related to your graduate program as well as other resources. You should become familiar with this site as you navigate graduate education. You can also complete the following through this page:

- Submit add/change/discontinuation requests for any major/named option, doctoral minor or graduate/professional certificate;
- View status of degree completion warrants;
- Discover professional development opportunities;
- Submit payment for completion of your doctoral dissertation; and more.

In Our Program

The Statistics Department will have online and in-person orientation events for incoming MSDS students. Additional information can be found in the MSDS orientation course in Canvas and in your email inbox.

Advising and Mentoring

Advising relationships are a central part of academia, important to both the experience and development of students and faculty members alike.

The Graduate School's definition of an advisor can be found in the [Graduate School: Advisor](#) policy. Your MSDS advisors have two main roles:

1. To assist you in acquiring the highest possible level of knowledge and competence in the field, and
2. To track your progress towards degree completion (note: this may include use of the advisement reports created by [Graduate Student Tracking System](#)), assisting with course selection and planning your academic path.

Advisors are assigned to MSDS students and include the MSDS program coordinator and a faculty member of the program committee. Because MSDS is a professional program, students do not form a graduate advising committee.

Because MSDS follows the [non-pooled/service-based pricing](#) structure, it has significant and specific campus and program policy impacts for students for which the program coordinator will need to provide guidance. See the [Degree Requirements](#) section of this handbook for more information.

Students must receive approval for their enrollment each semester through the course plan survey sent to wisc.edu email accounts early each semester. The course plan survey can also be used to make updates after the start of the semester. Students who do not have an approved course plan survey will have an enrollment hold put on their record for the following semester.

MSDS course information will be sent to students before enrollment begins each semester: by early to mid-November for spring enrollment and by early April for fall enrollment. New students will receive specific and detailed information in the spring and summer before they begin the program, both online and via email. Students with questions are welcome to contact the program coordinator via email, an advising appointment, or drop-in advising.

Both the student and advisor are responsible for making their expectations clear to each other. MSDS students are expected to do the following in a regular and timely manner: read their wisc.edu email; respond to email from the program chair and advisors as needed; fill out their course plan survey and other requested forms; and contact advisors with any questions or concerns. See the Statistics Department [Advising Expectations](#) for more information about advising expectations for both students and advisors.

A Graduate Student Guide to Working with Faculty Advisors

Through [this interactive, self-paced micro-course](#), graduate students learn about the characteristics of functional and dysfunctional relationships with advisors, strategies for communicating effectively and aligning expectations, as well as program grievance processes and Hostile and Intimidating Behavior resources. Completing the micro-course takes about 20 minutes and is optional but encouraged for all graduate students.

Office Hours

Professors, teaching assistants, and other instructors schedule time outside of class to meet with students during “office hours.” Office hours are times when you can meet your instructor to discuss coursework or other related interests. This can include asking for extra help understanding class materials, following up on something you found interesting in class, or discussing academic or professional interests such as continuing graduate school or future internship or job prospects.

Instructors typically share their office hour time and location in their course syllabus.

While office hours are not required, many students find that visiting their instructors can be very helpful. Instructors do not have any lessons planned during this time, and it is typically the student’s responsibility to lead the interaction. A good way to prepare for office hours is to review your course materials, noting areas where you may need more help along with any questions you may have. It’s also a good idea to start attending office hours early in the semester, rather than waiting until you’re overwhelmed near the end of the term. You’ll find that it’s easier to keep up with coursework than to try to catch up at the last moment.

Your instructor will not complete your assignments for you during office hours. Study your materials and try to complete any assignments before going to office hours so you can have questions or topics to discuss with your instructor.

Advising Compacts

Clearly defined expectations for both the student and advisor are a crucial starting point for a strong relationship. Programs/departments are encouraged to maintain a practice of producing “Advising Compacts” that clarify and document mutually agreed upon expectations for both the student and advisor. Advising and enrollment expectations are included in the Department of Statistics [Advising Expectations](#) webpage.

An [Individual Development Plan](#) (IDP) can also be a helpful tool to reflect on and plan your academic and professional goals. An IDP might also be used along with advising.

Mentoring Networks

In addition to your formal advisors, you are encouraged to develop a broad network of individuals who can provide academic and professional mentorship during and beyond your time as a graduate student.

Students are encouraged to visit [office hours](#) to develop a professional relationship with their instructors and better understand coursework. Students may also consider joining graduate student clubs included in the [Wisconsin Involvement Network](#). Examples of data science-related graduate student clubs include: [Statistics Graduate Student Association \(SGSA\)](#)

Degree Requirements

All students in the MSDS program are responsible for staying informed of the following requirements to earn the degree.

Prerequisite Coursework

Each student admitted to the MSDS program must have coursework equivalent to the UW-Madison courses listed in the [MSDS Graduate Guide](#).

Requirements

For all current requirements to earn your degree (e.g., minimum credit requirement, required courses, non-curricular milestones, learning outcomes/goals, etc.) see the [MSDS Graduate Guide](#). You can also navigate to the Graduate [Guide](#), then select “Degrees/Majors,” your program’s name and then “Requirements” from the navigation bar on the right side. You will be taken to a subsection of your program’s Guide page, which contains all official requirements for your degree in the current year. Similarly, see “Policies” from the navigation bar of your program’s page to learn about major-specific policies affecting these requirements (e.g., prior coursework, probation, credits per term

allowed, time limits, grievances and appeals, etc.). When you look at the Guide to learn about program requirements, you are viewing the current year's version. To find past versions of program requirements, see the [Guide Archive](#) and search for your program and the year you would like to reference.

Not meeting MSDS program or campus requirements can result in being received from the program.

Course Plan Survey

Each student is required to submit a course plan survey stating the courses they are enrolled in each semester. An approved course plan survey allows MSDS program coordinators to ensure that students continue to make satisfactory academic progress in the program and are enrolling according to the program requirements listed in the [MSDS Graduate Guide](#).

A link to the course plan survey will be sent to each student's wisc.edu email address at the beginning of each semester. Students who do not submit their course survey plan by the deadline will have a hold placed on their record preventing any future enrollment (add/drop/swap current courses or future semester enrollment).

Students must have any enrollment changes approved by an MSDS program coordinator or risk not making satisfactory academic progress, which may jeopardize their graduation status.

Statistics-VISP to MSDS Students

Students who come to MSDS from the Statistics-VISP program are allowed to transfer up to 14 credits from their enrollment during VISP to the MSDS program if they received a grade of B or higher. These credits will typically include STAT 601 (4 cr); 610 (4 cr); 615 (3 cr); and either STAT 605, STAT 606 (3 cr), or 3 credits of undergraduate Statistics electives. Visit the Graduate School policy for [Transfer credits for Prior Coursework](#) for more details.

Students who join the MSDS program from the Statistics-VISP program must have completed at least one core MSDS course (STAT 601, STAT 610, or STAT 615), and may only have one core course with a passing grade below B (either BC or C). Statistics course descriptions can be found in the University of Wisconsin-Madison [Guide](#). If a student receives more than one passing grade below B (BC or C) in core courses, they must receive an approved grade waiver to maintain eligibility for MSDS. Contact visp-msds@stat.wisc.edu for more information about requesting a grade waiver.

Time to Degree

Students coming from the Statistics-VISP program are expected to complete the program in 2 semesters. Students who did not participate in the Statistics-VISP program are expected to complete the program in 3–4 semesters. Students who wish to pursue the program part time must receive permission from the program chair (visp-msds@stat.wisc.edu).

Sample Course Schedule

Sample course schedules for MSDS are included below. Contact your program coordinator (visp-msds@stat.wisc.edu) if you have specific questions or to create an enrollment plan that reflects your goals. You can use a [program requirements worksheet](#) when planning your enrollment.

Four-semester enrollment plan

- First fall semester: STAT 601 (4 credits), STAT 610 (4)
- First spring semester: STAT 615 (3), STAT 605 and/or STAT electives (5–6)
- Second fall semester: STAT 628 (3), STAT 605 (if not yet completed) and/or STAT electives (6)
- Second spring semester: any remaining electives (4–5)
 - Note applicable final semester [enrollment requirements](#)

Three-semester enrollment plan

- First fall semester: STAT 601 (4 credits), STAT 610 (4), STAT 605 or STAT elective (3)
- First spring semester: STAT 615 (3), STAT 605 and/or STAT electives (7)
- Second fall semester: STAT 628 (3), remaining electives (6)
 - Note applicable final semester [enrollment requirements](#)

Statistics-VISP to MSDS enrollment plan

Graduate School policy requires completion of at least 16 credits in residence as a graduate student.

- Transfer credits from Statistics-VISP: STAT 601 (4 credits); STAT 610 (4); STAT 615 (3); STAT 605, STAT 606, or elective Statistics course number 300 – 599 (3)
- Fall semester: STAT 605 (3), STAT 628 (3), STAT elective (3–4)
- Spring semester: Remaining MSDS electives (6–7)

- Note applicable final semester [enrollment requirements](#)

Accelerated pathway enrollment plan (option for UW alumni only)

UW alumni come from a variety of academic backgrounds. Students interested in pursuing the accelerated pathway should contact the program coordinator for individualized enrollment plan information (visp-msds@stat.wisc.edu).

Summer Degree Completion

Any student planning to complete degree requirements during the summer term should meet with the program coordinator to discuss degree completion plans and potential implications.

Master's Degree Checklist: Timeline and Deadlines

The Graduate School maintains a list of steps to [complete your master's degree](#), including deadlines and important things to know as you progress toward graduation. In addition to what is posted on this webpage from the Graduate School, you must complete all program requirements.

International Student Services (ISS) maintains a [program completion options](#) resource for visa-holding students.

Applying to the Statistics PhD Program

Current MSDS students interested in applying to the UW-Madison PhD program can find information in the [Statistics KnowledgeBase](#) (KB). UW-Madison NetID login is required to access the MSDS to Statistics PhD application page. Questions about the Statistics PhD program can be sent to the PhD coordinator: admissions@stat.wisc.edu.

Academic Policies

Enrollment Requirements

The Graduate School maintains the [official academic and administrative policies](#) relevant to graduate students.

The Graduate School's [Academics page](#) provides important information related to academic matters, policies and academic success. The following links have important information relevant to courses and enrollment that is important for you to be aware of:

- [Enrollment Requirements](#)
- [Late Enrollment, Course Change, or Drop](#)
- [Other Types of Courses](#)
- [Cancel or Withdraw Enrollment](#)

Additional MSDS program-specific enrollment requirements include:

- Two credits maximum of STAT 699 Directed Study can taken toward the STAT Courses Numbered 600 or Above requirement
- Students who must enroll for credit as a part of their internship will enroll in [STAT 403](#) Internship Course for Computer Sciences and Data Science
 - One credit of STAT 403 can be completed toward degree requirements
 - STAT 403 can be completed a maximum of 3 times; however, only 1 credit will count toward MSDS degree requirements
- UW-Madison undergraduate alumni who have completed STAT 405 Data Science Computing Project (3 cr) can request to count this course toward the STAT 605 requirement
 - If approved, an additional 3-credit elective course can be taken in lieu of STAT 605 (Statistics Courses Numbered 600 or Above)
- Elective courses that are not approved: COMP SCI 760, 761, 762 replicate content in STAT 615 Statistical Pattern Classification
 - Any enrollment in these courses must be dropped

Academic Exception Petitions

Academic exceptions are considered on an individual case by case basis and should not be considered a precedent. Deviations from normal progress are highly discouraged, but the program recognizes that there are in some cases extenuating academic and personal circumstances. Petitions for course exceptions/substitutions or exceptions to the Satisfactory Progress Expectations (academic or conduct) shall be directed to the MSDS committee chair. The following procedures apply to all petitions:

1. The specific requirement/rule/expectation pertinent to the petition must be identified.
2. All coursework substitutions and equivalencies will be decided by the MSDS program committee.

More generally, the MSDS committee chair may grant extensions to normal progress requirements for students who face circumstances (similar to tenure extensions) as noted in university regulations, this includes childbirth, adoption, significant responsibilities with respect to elder or dependent care obligations, disability or chronic

illness, or circumstances beyond one's personal control. Where warranted, the petition should provide good evidence of plans and ability to return to conformance with the standard and to acceptably complete the program. The normal extension will be one semester; anything beyond this will be granted only in the event of highly extraordinary circumstances. Extensions will be granted formally with a note of explanation to be placed in the student's file.

Students wishing to request an exception (including substitutions) or seek permission to apply previous coursework toward requirements should consult the MSDS program coordinator (visp-msds@stat.wisc.edu). Following this consultation, the student may continue to write a formal petition to the MSDS committee chair.

Academic exception petitions do not serve as a way for students to bypass program requirements, and will only be considered in extraordinary circumstances and on a case-by-case basis. Petitions will be reviewed, and students will be notified of the petition status through their wisc.edu email account. Academic exception petitions may take at least 10 business days for processing and review once submitted.

Progress Towards Your Degree

The Graduate School provides relevant information you should be aware of as you [progress towards your degree](#). Students must follow Graduate School policies, program-specific policies and if applicable, employment policies. The following sections highlight two areas related to courses and enrollment.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

The [Graduate School: Satisfactory Progress](#) policy defines what is expected of students to make satisfactory progress toward degree completion. Probation or dismissal from the Graduate School can impact your academic standing, financial aid or funding (consult your sources of funding as applicable). In addition to the Graduate School's monitoring of satisfactory academic progress, this program regularly reviews the satisfactory academic progress of its students, defined as:

- Following all requirements listed in the MSDS Graduate [Guide](#)
 - Students requiring course exceptions (including substitutions) due to extenuating circumstances may submit an academic exception petition
- Having only one passing grade below a B (BC or C) in the core courses: STAT 601, STAT 610, or STAT 615
- Graduating in the semester when all degree requirements have been completed
- Having an approved [course plan survey](#) each semester

- Upholding [personal conduct expectations](#)

Students with academic scholarship who do not maintain satisfactory academic progress, including participation in academic misconduct, risk removal of their scholarship.

Not Meeting Academic Expectations

Program coordinators review each student's progress each term through grades, course enrollment, and GPA. If program coordinators find that a student has not maintained satisfactory academic progress set by the program, the student is required to meet with the program chair and/or program coordinator to discuss their plan to return to good standing. Students who are not meeting expectations may have a hold placed on their student record by the program and/or the Graduate School. They may also face disciplinary action or removal from the program.

Grievances and Appeals

Visit the MSDS Graduate [Guide](#) for more information.

Personal Conduct Expectations

Professional Conduct

The [Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards](#) maintains detailed guidance on [student rights and responsibilities](#) related to learning in a community that is safe and fosters integrity and accountability. You are responsible for keeping aware of their [policies and procedures](#).

Students may be dismissed from the MSDS program for misconduct or disregard for professional conduct expectations regardless of their academic standing in the program. Separate and apart from a violation of professional conduct, a student may face University disciplinary action about the same action. Students are responsible for reading the information here along with the information published by the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards. Lack of knowledge of this information does not excuse any infraction.

This program sees the following qualities as evidence of professional behavior by students:

- Understands and follows the UW Student Code of Conduct
- Shows respect for a diversity of opinions, perspectives, and cultures
- Accurately represents their work and acknowledges the contributions of others

- Aims to gain knowledge and contributes to the knowledge base of others
- Strives to incorporate and practice disciplinary ideals in their daily lives
- Demonstrates integrity; provides accurate information in resumes/CVs
- Challenges themselves in academic pursuits
- Follows research ethics including IRB protocols, documentation of research activities, protection of subject/client confidentiality, and follows HIPAA regulations
- Demonstrates commitment to an unbiased interpretation of data as well as related academic and professional endeavors
- Follows-through and pulls their weight in group activities
- Understands where collaboration among students is or is not allowed
- Does not plagiarize others or past work (self-plagiarism), cheat, or purposefully undermine the work of others
- Avoids conflicts of interest
- Interacts with peers, faculty, staff, and those they encounter in their professional capacity in a manner that is respectful and considerate
- Attends and is prepared for all scheduled meetings and classes, and honors agreed upon work schedules
- Communicates openly and offers prompt responses to inquiries
- Is careful in their use of available equipment, technology and resources
- Offers criticism in a constructive manner
- Welcomes feedback
- Is actively prepared for class and ready for questions and answers
- Notifies instructors at least one day in advance of a planned absence and takes responsibility for finding out what they missed
- Recognizes that the pursuit of knowledge is a continuous process and seeks guidance (when needed) as they adapt to change

Academic Misconduct

[Academic misconduct](#) is governed by state law, UW System Administration Code Chapter 14. For further information on this law, what constitutes academic misconduct, and procedures related to academic misconduct, see:

Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards

- [Academic Misconduct Definition](#)
- [Student Resources for Academic Integrity](#)
- [Academic Misconduct Process at UW-Madison UWS Chapter 14](#)

University of Wisconsin System (UWS): [Chapter 14: Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures](#)

Non-Academic Misconduct

[Non-academic misconduct](#) is governed by state law, UW System Administration Code Chapters 17 and 18. For further information on these laws, what constitutes non-academic misconduct, and procedures related to non-academic misconduct, see:

Office for Student Conduct and Community Standards: [Student Nonacademic Disciplinary Procedures](#)

University of Wisconsin System (UWS)

- [Chapter 17: Student Non-Academic Disciplinary Procedures](#)
- [Chapter 18: Conduct on University Lands](#)

Research Misconduct

Trust in the accuracy and veracity of the scholarly record are fundamental to science. When that record is tainted, whole fields of study can be set back or questioned. Moreover, when scientists have been found to engage in misconduct, partners and the public lose faith in the ability of all scientists to address society's grand challenges.

The [Faculty Legislation II-314: Misconduct in Scholarly Research](#) policy defines research misconduct. The policy applies to all those involved in the research process including graduate students. The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research's [Research Misconduct page](#) is another resource that provides the definitions, applicability and confidentiality in research misconduct proceedings.

If you have questions or concerns about research misconduct or integrity, this can be discussed confidentially with the Research Integrity Officer (rio@research.wisc.edu).

Describe any additional procedures or policies your program has in place regarding research misconduct.

Hostile and Intimidating Behavior (Bullying)

Hostile and intimidating behavior (HIB), sometimes referred to as "bullying," is prohibited by university policy applicable to faculty, academic staff, and university staff. Refer to the Graduate School's [Reporting Incidents page](#) for further definition, policy, and procedures. Students who are employees and feel they have been subject to HIB in the

workplace are encouraged to review the [Hostile and Intimidating Behavior website](#) for information about the [informal](#) and [formal](#) approaches and investigations to take in addressing hostile and intimidating behavior.

Process and Sanctions for Violations of Conduct Standards

Failure to meet the program's academic or conduct expectations can result in disciplinary action including immediate dismissal from the program. If a student is not making satisfactory progress regarding academic or conduct expectations, the advisor will consult with the program committee to determine if disciplinary action or dismissal is recommended.

Possible Department Disciplinary actions

- Written reprimand
- Denial of specified privilege(s)
- Imposition of reasonable terms and conditions on continued student status
- Removal of funding
- Probation
- Restitution
- Removal of the student from the course(s) in progress
- Failure to promote
- Withdrawal of an offer of admission
- Placement on leave of absence for a determined amount of time
- Suspension from the program for up to one year with the stipulation that remedial activities may be prescribed as a condition of later readmission. Students who meet the readmission condition must apply for readmission and the student will be admitted only on a space available basis. See the Graduate School Academic Policies & Procedures: [Readmission to Graduate School](#)
- Suspension from the program. The suspensions may range from one semester to four years.
- Dismissal from the program
- Denial of a degree

Reporting Incidents (Harassment, Discrimination and Bias, Hostile and Intimidating Behavior, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Dating and Domestic Violence, and Stalking)

The Graduate School's page ([Reporting Incidents](#)) directs you to the appropriate links for reporting incidents.

Other important resources on campus include:

- [Office of Student Assistance and Support – Share a Concern](#) (this page allows you to share a general concern and learn how to report other incidents on campus)
- [Office of Compliance](#)
- [Sexual Misconduct Resource and Response Program](#)

As noted above in [Personal Conduct Expectations section](#), students who feel they have been subject to hostile and/or intimidating behavior (i.e., bullying) are encouraged to review the informal and formal options for addressing this behavior (including filing complaints when desired) at: [Human Resources Hostile and Intimidating Behavior – Addressing HIB](#).

Funding Information and Resources

“Funding” refers to the financial support available to help students cover some or all of the costs of graduate education. Funding opportunities vary by program in type, amount, duration, and level of guarantee.

As a professional MS program, MSDS is allowed to set its own market rate-based tuition, which is \$1,600 per credit plus any relevant student fees (2026–27 academic year, subject to change by year). This tuition rate is the same for all students and is credit based.

General information on the current tuition rate and fees is listed on the [Bursar's Office website](#). MSDS is included in the “Tier 1600 with Segregated Fees” rate. To find our specific program, click the link, select the correct term and academic year, then search for “Statistics: Statistics and Data Science.”

MSDS students are expected to be self-supported and must pay the appropriate tuition during time of study.

Graduate Assistantships

[Campus policy](#) states that students in the MSDS program can be employed in a graduate assistantship (Teaching Assistant, Research Assistant, Program/Project Assistant) but are not eligible to receive tuition remission. Corporate tuition support and waiver of tuition for veterans is not included in these categories. See the Bursar's Office [tuition](#)

[remission policy and procedures](#) webpage to learn more about what tuition remission is and the types of positions that would grant remission.

Academic Scholarship Information

Students on academic scholarship must maintain [satisfactory academic progress](#) to continue receiving their scholarship for the duration of their study. Students found not maintaining satisfactory academic progress, including participation in academic or non-academic misconduct, risk removal or suspension of their scholarship.

The MSDS program is not responsible for updating scholarship payments if students fail to communicate enrollment changes in a timely manner, including enrollment in additional courses for example.

Admissions Scholarship

MSDS offers a limited number of selective scholarships to highly qualified applicants at the time of their admission recommendation. Selected students receive a scholarship of up to 25% for MSDS tuition charges not including fees assessed by the university, such as (but not limited to) segregated fees. Scholarships are applied over the duration of their time in the program in the form of fee deferrals. Scholarships awarded to students with pre-approved credits are prorated based on the number of credits needed to complete the program.

Academic Excellence Scholarship

The Department of Statistics offers a limited number of selective scholarships to highly qualified Statistics-VISP students continuing in the MSDS program. Selected students receive a one-time scholarship applied to their tuition account in the first semester of MSDS.

Finding Funding Without a Guaranteed Appointment

Campus-Wide and External Sources

To help you find resources to pay for costs related to graduate education, the Graduate School provides a comprehensive overview of the funding process on campus as well as descriptions of the types of funding available, sources of funding, [minimum stipend rates and benefits](#), and links to applicable human resources policies (e.g. GAPP) at the [Funding and Awards](#) page.

See the [Graduate School's Fellowships](#) page, including the [Funding Forward](#) program from the Graduate School that equips and empowers graduate students to compete for external fellowships, for information and resources about fellowships (another source of financial support for graduate study).

Professional Development

When you participate in professional development, you build skills needed to succeed academically and thrive in your career. The following are professional development activities that we recommend for your consideration.

On Campus

The Graduate School develops and curates a wide variety of resources for professional development as well as programming to help you explore careers, prepare for a job search, build your network and learn from alumni, manage projects, communicate about your research, and much more. All of this can be found at: [Graduate School's Professional Development](#).

Individual Development Plan (IDP)

This tool helps you assess your skills, set goals, and create a plan with recommended activities on campus.

Through clear guidance and helpful resources, you'll learn how an IDP helps you set goals, stay focused, and make steady progress through graduate school and beyond, using a simple approach: **assess, write, discuss, implement, and revise**.

The micro-course, *Creating your Individual Development Plan*, is a great way to start your IDP today.

DiscoverPD

DiscoverPD helps master's and doctoral students at UW-Madison advance their academic and professional goals with customized recommendations based on a skills self-assessment. The 400+ professional development recommendations available in the DiscoverPD database are available in a range of formats to best meet your diverse needs, including in-person, virtual, asynchronous, and synchronous opportunities. You can also access DiscoverPD through your [Graduate Student Portal](#).

Free Career- and Skill-Building Memberships

UW-Madison graduate students and postdocs have access to a variety of [free memberships and online tools](#) to build their skills, explore career options, and more. For example:

- Beyond Graduate School is a one-of-a-kind career platform for **master's students** to explore career options and learn proven job search strategies. Visit [Beyond Graduate School](#), select University of Wisconsin-Madison, and enter your institutional login information.
- [LinkedIn Learning](#) offers a full library of self-study courses available anytime, covering topics such as software, programming, productivity, design, project management, public speaking, and more. Different courses are geared toward all levels of experience from beginner to expert and can be completed at each learner's own pace.

Delta Program in Research, Teaching, and Learning

Teaching and mentoring related professional development and training is offered by many collaborators across campus, including the Graduate School; the [Center for Teaching, Learning, and Mentoring](#); [WISCIENCE](#), and others.

The [Delta Program in Research, Teaching, and Learning](#) in the Graduate School engages graduate students and postdocs in professional development in teaching, mentoring, and outreach. Through Delta's certificate, courses, seminars, internship program, and workshops, participants gain skills in evidence-based teaching and mentoring, necessary to become effective and inclusive researchers, educators, and mentors across the nation and world. Highlights include:

- [Research Mentor Learning Communities](#), based on a nationally-recognized curriculum, give graduate students and postdocs concrete tools to support a successful mentor-mentee relationship.
- The [Certificate in Higher Education Teaching and Learning](#), which represents commitment to excellence as an educator and prepares leaders who promote inclusive and effective educational experiences at the college level.
- Impactful [Delta courses](#), including:
 - Teaching in Science and Engineering: The College Classroom
 - Active Learning Laboratory
 - Expeditions in Evidence-Based Teaching and Learning
 - Improv to Improve Science Communication and Teaching.

[Sign up for Delta's mailing list](#) or read *GradConnections Weekly* to learn about opportunities as soon as they are announced.

GradConnections

The Graduate School communicates professional development opportunities through an e-newsletter, *GradConnections*, that all graduate students receive at their wisc.edu email. Graduate students in traditional graduate degree programs receive the newsletter weekly during the academic year and every other week in the summer.

In the College of Computing and Artificial Intelligence (CAI)

CAI holds career fairs twice per year open to UW-Madison students with computer, data, statistics, and information sciences skills. The departments in CAI hold various professional development events throughout the academic year for both graduate and undergraduate students.

In the Department of Statistics

MSDS students are encouraged to join in Statistics Department professional development events and opportunities. Students are also encouraged to meet with the program coordinators for one-on-one help with professional development. The Department of Statistics also maintains a [Student Career Resources](#) website.

International Student Services (ISS)

The [International Student Services](#) office (ISS) is a resource for international students with professional development questions, including eligibility for CPT and OPT among other areas.

Additional Resources

There are several other resources available to graduate students throughout campus. The Graduate Guide's [Student Affairs page](#) lists many programs and campus units that serve students. This handbook would like to highlight the following offices.

McBurney Disability Resource Center

The [McBurney Disability Resource Center](#) provides support for disability-related student accommodations. This office can help you explore disability-related accommodations and answer questions or concerns about accommodations.

Office of Student Assistance and Support (OSAS)

The [Office of Student Assistance and Support](#) connects you with the support you need. The office's website allows you to [fill out a form](#) to connect with staff to help you find options and resources. The website also connects you to resources related to [food access](#), [housing and financial support](#), and [other common inquiries](#).

University Health Services (UHS)

[University Health Services](#) (UHS) provides high-quality medical and prevention services, including confidential, no-cost care [mental health care](#) for students. This includes access to individual counseling, group counseling and well workshops, and more. Students also have access to UWill and Let's Talk.

UWill

All UW students have access to [UWill](#), a free, flexible virtual counseling service. This is accessible 24/7 and does not require an appointment to access. Typically, appointments are available within 24 hours.

Let's Talk

[Let's Talk](#) provides free, confidential consultations with a UHS staff member. These are available in-person or virtually. See the [schedule on their website](#) for times and locations.