From: Dana Maltby
To: ""Anna-Marie C Heins" via ds_undergrad"
Subject: RE: DS Major Spring 2027 Enrollment Information Newsletter #2
Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2026 8:47:00 AM

Hello everyone,

Correction: STAT 479 LEC 003 Interpretable Machine Learning is approved as a **Machine Learning elective**, not a Statistical Modeling elective. See correction below.

Best,
Dana

From: Dana Maltby
Sent: Tuesday, November 3, 2026 8:22 AM
To: 'Anna-Marie C Heins' via ds_undergrad <dsundergrad@g-groups.wisc.edu>
Subject: DS Major Spring 2027 Enrollment Information Newsletter #2

Spring 2027 DS Enrollment Information Newsletter #2 New Data Science Courses & Enrollment Advice

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Today's newsletter has info to help you navigate the upcoming Spring 2027 changes within the Data Science major.

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 2: Enrollment Information
    - **Correction:** GEOG 579 is **OPEN** to Data Science undergrads who satisfy enrollment requisites!

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

Newly Approved DS Major Courses

Newly approved classes that are not currently listed in the Data Science Guide and are offered Spring 2027 are:

- **Statistical Modeling Elective**
    - STAT 479 LEC 001 Statistical Analysis of Network Data
        - **Description:** Networks and graph-structured data describe relationships

between entities, such as peer-peer friendships among individuals in a social network, country-country trade relations in economics, or brain region-region co-activation in neuroimaging studies. In recent years, advances in data acquisition technologies and interest in the study of complex, interdependent systems have led to the proliferation of network datasets throughout the natural sciences, physical sciences, and engineering. This course provides an introduction to statistical methods, theory, and applications for network data analysis. Topics include network summary statistics and visualization, random graphs and latent variable models, clustering and dimensionality reduction, methods of estimation and hypothesis testing, spectral techniques, and computation in R. This course emphasizes real-world examples and applications.
        - **Pre-reqs:** (STAT 240 or 303) and (STAT/MATH 309, STAT 311, MATH 331, STAT/MATH 431, or MATH 531)
- **Machine Learning Elective**
    - STAT 479 LEC 003 Interpretable Machine Learning
        - **Description:** Develops the practice and theory of interpretable machine learning, with an emphasis on statistical problem solving through case studies. Topics include competing criteria for interpretability; linear and logistic regression as interpretable baselines; intrinsically interpretable nonlinear models such as Gaussian processes and decision trees; variable importance and Shapley values; connections to veridical data science principles. Also examines interpretability in artificial intelligence, covering probes, and concept activation, and sparse autoencoder analysis, with implications for model control and AI safety. Gain practical experience implementing methods and critically evaluating interpretability outputs.
        - **Pre-reqs:** Reserved for students who have completed Stat 333 or Stat 340 and are declared in Statistics, Data Science, Statistics Certificate, Data Science Certificate, or Statistics Doctoral Minor only until 10:00am on Nov. 20th.
- **Other Data Science Elective**
    - STAT 479 LEC 008 Data Science for Industry
        - **Description:** Solve real problems in regular collaboration with an industry client; work as a team to manage a project timeline and client expectations; rapidly prototype and iterate on reproducible end-to-end analyses; produce and present a reproducible, value-driven hand-off package; leverage industry-standard tooling including AI coding agents, git, quarto, formatters, linters, project dependency managers, automated testing, and containers for reproduction, collaboration, and sharing; refine broad questions into

carefully-scoped statistical and data science tasks; uphold professional standards of data security, project management, personal productivity, and ethics; enhance oral and written communication skills to support synchronous and asynchronous client interactions.

- **Pre-reqs: Instructor Consent Required**
  1. Please fill out this form (https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5bvpeV9m23DoNcG) to inform us of your interest in STAT 479: Data Science for Industry course. To be an effective student and participant in this course, we will need to know that you have completed the following courses:
     1. Computer Programming
     2. Machine Learning/Probability
     3. Statistical Modeling
     4. or are currently completing the course this semester.
  2. Once you fill out this form, our advisors will review your academic record and work with our enrollment coordinator to give you permission to enroll. Enrollment permissions will go out starting November 2nd.

If you enroll in any of these classes in Spring 2027, **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 (Jan 27th). You will be emailed once the class has been added to your record.

Enrollment Advice

Do's and Don'ts of Enrolling:

- **DO:** Plan back up classes
  - It is likely your first choice of classes may fill by your enrollment time.
- **DO:** Check your enrollment appointment time in your MyUW Student Center (and WiscMail inbox).
- **DO:** Enroll as close to your appointment time as possible and select the "add me to waitlist if course is full option.
  - Waiting to enroll may prevent you from getting a seat in your preferred classes.
- **DO:** Monitor Search & Enroll for added seats and/or sections.
  - Spots may open in different sections; you can enroll in sections with open seats!
- **DO:** Re-validate your course selection before hitting 'enroll.'
  - This will help remove previous validation errors.

- **DO:** Read your validation errors FULLY; they give important information as to why you may be prevented from enrolling.
    - Be sure that you are enrolling in the correct section.
- **Do NOT** enroll in courses that have time conflicts.
    - If you cannot be in two places at once, you shouldn't enroll in two courses taught at the same time.

Consult the following enrollment FAQ pages if you have enrollment questions:

- Statistics courses FAQ
- Computer Sciences courses FAQ