

Thank you for joining!

Graduate Data Science Programs

INFORMATION SESSION WILL BEGIN AT 1 PM CT

Northwestern

SCHOOL OF
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Graduate Data Science Programs

Northwestern

SCHOOL OF
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES



Education

PhD, Psychology (psychometrics), University of Minnesota

MS, Statistics, University of Minnesota

MBA, MS Economics, University of Oregon

BA, Philosophy, Ursinus College

Prior Academic Appointments

Taught marketing research and strategy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Business

Additional appointments at the University of Oregon, Oregon State University, Hamline University, and the University of Minnesota

Business and Consulting Experience

Former director of the A.C. Nielsen Center for Marketing Research

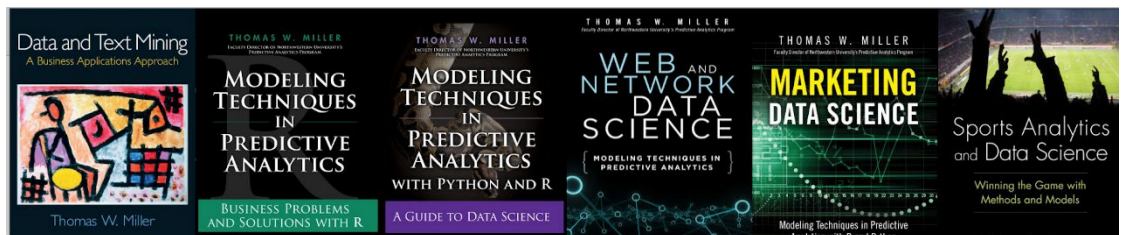
Experience with corporate IT: Hewlett-Packard and NCR Comten

Owner of Research Publishers LLC, Manhattan Beach, CA, offering publishing and consulting services (www.research-publishers.com)

Editor-in-Chief, *Data Science Quarterly* (www.data-science-quarterly.com), promoting data science as a discipline

Predictive analytics as The Virtual Tout (www.virtualtout.com)

Author of six textbooks about data science



Thomas W. Miller

MSDS Faculty Director

COURSES for 2023-24

Data Engineering with Go

Decision Analytics

Knowledge Engineering

Data Visualization



Founded in
1933

Ranked #9



in the
country

Faculty includes:

- Northwestern scholars
- Experienced practitioners
- Industry leaders



**Kathreen
Fontecha**

MASTER OF SCIENCE
IN INFORMATION
DESIGN AND
STRATEGY



**Ignatius Valentine
Aloysius**

MASTER OF ARTS/
FINE ARTS IN
CREATIVE WRITING



**Paula
Derdiger, PhD**

MASTER OF ARTS IN
LITERATURE



**Stephanie
Cisneros**

MASTER OF ARTS IN
LIBERAL STUDIES



Henry Gabb, PhD

MASTER OF
SCIENCE IN HEALTH
INFORMATICS



JC Kibbey

MASTER OF
ARTS IN PUBLIC
POLICY AND
ADMINISTRATION



Brad Bauer

MASTER OF
ARTS IN SPORTS
ADMINISTRATION



**Justina
Lakinger**

MASTER OF
SCIENCE IN
DATA SCIENCE



**Nancy
Dandridge**

MASTER OF
SCIENCE IN
INFORMATION
SYSTEMS



John Barker

MASTER OF
SCIENCE IN
REGULATORY
COMPLIANCE



**Stephanie
Kang**

MASTER OF
SCIENCE IN
GLOBAL HEALTH



Course Length



10 weeks

Where



Online

When



ONLINE
Flexible scheduling with periodic coordinated web conference sessions

Courses Per Quarter



AVERAGE
1–2
MAXIMUM
3

Time to Finish



2–5 years
You set the pace

SPS Distance Learning Philosophy

Courses designed to ensure the success of every student

Learning-by-doing and case study approach to education

- Courses are grounded in theories of learning and cognition that facilitate active engagement in individual learning
- Students are immersed in vibrant discussion, applying high-end skill sets, and developing solutions to real-life problems

Rich distance learning experience

- Designed to promote interactions among students and faculty
- Asynchronous with live elements layered in as appropriate
- Courses continually updated with current technology

Employing universal instructional design

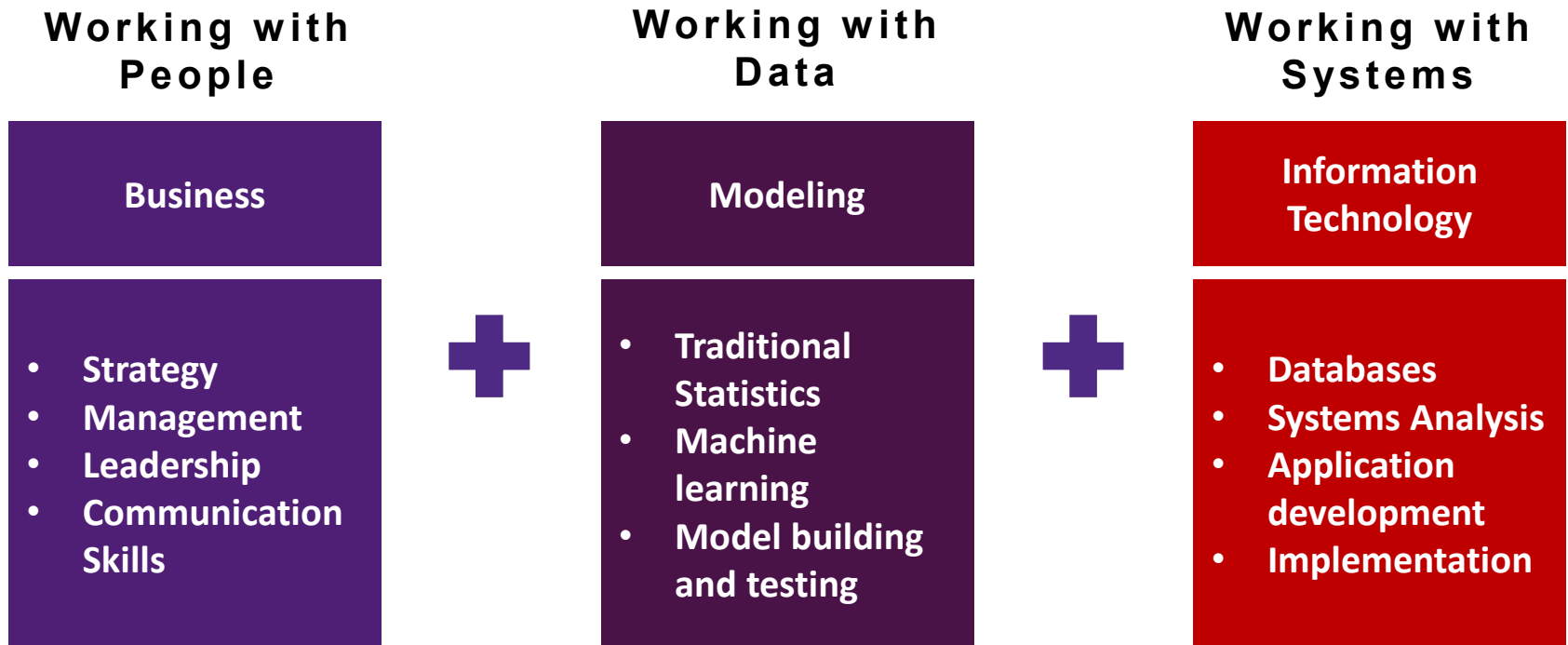
- Courses are designed and taught utilizing principles of universal instructional design, creating a learning environment in which every student can succeed
- Universal instructional design recognizes and respects that students bring diverse cultures, backgrounds, and learning styles to the classroom

Strong Demand for Data Engineers, Data Scientists, and Data Analysts

Cover image from the December 2023 issue of *Communications of the ACM* says it all



What is Data Science?



Each component is thoroughly covered in the MSDS program

About the MSDS Program

Cutting-Edge Technology

Named the #1 Best Online Master's in Artificial Intelligence Degree Program.

See <https://www.mastersinai.org/degrees/online-masters-in-artificial-intelligence/>

- Brings together data management, statistical analysis, communication, and leadership
- Use Python, R, and Go for data science and data engineering
- Use state-of-the-art systems for machine learning and artificial intelligence
- Work with high-performance, enterprise-ready database systems, including relational, document, graph-relational, and vector databases
- Work with systems and applications using Docker containers and Docker Hub
- Use cloud services from many providers

Learn from Leaders in the Field

- Courses taught by distinguished Northwestern faculty and experienced data scientists
- Prepare for key roles in electronic commerce, marketing, finance, health care, operations management, and more

What makes the MSDS program special?

Noteworthy Information about the Program

- 12+ years in online analytics and data science education
- 80% of faculty with doctoral degrees
- 95% of faculty with business experience
- 2,000+ Master's degree graduates
- Five specializations and 40+ courses to choose from in MSDS
- Courses in MSIS may be selected as electives

Additional Northwestern Resources

- Extensive Library Collections
- Springer Collection of Online Resources
- Safari Online (O'Reilly, Manning, and other publishers)
- LinkedIn Training (formerly Linda.com)
- Learning Studios (Python, R, Go, Excel, and Statistics)
- The Writing Place and The Math Place

12 Courses

- 6 Core Courses
- 2 Specialization Courses (optional)
- 2 Elective Courses
- 1 Additional core course selected from eight options
- 1 Capstone Project or Thesis

5 Specializations

- Analytics Management
- Analytics and Modeling
- Artificial Intelligence
- Data Engineering
- Technology Entrepreneurship

6 Core Courses

- Math for Modelers
- Applied Statistics with R
- Data Governance, Ethics, and Law
- Database Systems
- Practical Machine Learning
- Decision Analytics

Languages for Data Science: Python, R, Go, and SQL

Students in the MSDS program gain experience with key languages for data science and data engineering and can tailor studies to their own needs and interests. Many courses provide language options.

- Python is the primary language in most Artificial Intelligence courses
- R is the primary language in most Analytics and Modeling courses
- Go is used extensively in Data Engineering courses along with other languages and systems. See <https://msdsgo.netlify.app/>
- Structured query language (SQL) used in courses with relational databases

Courses Introducing Languages for Data Sciences

**Python for Data
Science**

**Applied Statistics
with R**

**Data Engineering
with Go**

**Database Systems
(SQL)**

Why Go?

- Go is a primary language in Northwestern's data science program. It is central to the Data Engineering specialization.
- Go is an easy language to learn and holds great promise for data science. Training in Go is a key distinguishing feature of the MSDS program. We do not stop with Python and R. We show how to build scalable, performant information systems and applications with integrated solutions from applied statistics, operations research, machine learning, and artificial intelligence.
- See the Learning Go for Data Science website:
<https://msdsgo.netlify.app/>

Analytics and Modeling

- Builds on the tradition of the Master of Science in Predictive Analytics (MSPA) program. Designed for data scientists seeking technical roles as data analysts, applied statisticians, and modelers. Courses focus on statistical inference and applications of predictive models.

REQUIRED COURSES

**Supervised Learning
Methods**

**Unsupervised
Learning Methods**

SUGGESTED ELECTIVE COURSES

**Time Series Analysis
and Forecasting**

Marketing Analytics

**Financial
Machine Learning**

**Applied Probability
and Simulation
Modeling**

**Web and Network
Data Science**

**Research Design for
Data Science**

Data Visualization

Artificial Intelligence

- Designed for students seeking technical positions in machine learning and artificial intelligence (AI).
- Students develop programming skills in deep learning, as needed for computer vision, natural language processing, intelligent systems, and robotics.

SUGGESTED LANGUAGE PRELIMINARIES

Python Learning
Studio

Python for Data
Science

REQUIRED COURSES

Artificial Intelligence
and Deep Learning

Natural Language
Processing

SUGGESTED ELECTIVE COURSES

Computer Vision

Intelligent Systems
and Robotics

Special Topics:
Generative Artificial
Intelligence

Knowledge
Engineering

Data Engineering

- Designed for students seeking technical positions with a focus on data science applications, software development, and information systems analysis and deployment.
- Students learn about technologies for gathering, storing, and analyzing data in interactive, batch, and stream processing environments.

SUGGESTED LANGUAGE PRELIMINARIES

Go Learning Studio

**Data Engineering
with Go**

REQUIRED COURSES

**Foundations of Data
Engineering**

**Data Science and
Cloud Computing**

SUGGESTED ELECTIVE COURSES

**Analytics Systems
Engineering**

**Full-Stack Data
Engineering**

**Data Pipelines and
Stream Processing**

**Knowledge
Engineering**

Analytics Management

- Designed for students seeking technical leadership and data science management positions.

REQUIRED COURSES

**Accounting and Finance
for Technology
Managers**

**Business Process
Analytics**

SUGGESTED ELECTIVE COURSES

**Data Science and
Digital Transformation**

**Management
Consulting**

Project Management

**Business Leadership
and Communication**

**Research Design for
Data Science**

Data Visualization

Technology Entrepreneurship

- Entrepreneurship involves creating a new business or business function where one did not exist before.
- Data science, machine learning, and artificial intelligence provide new business opportunities. This specialization shows students ways of building successful, innovation-driven startups.

REQUIRED COURSES

**Technology
Entrepreneurship**

**Accounting and
Finance for
Technology Managers**

SUGGESTED ELECTIVE COURSES

Project Management

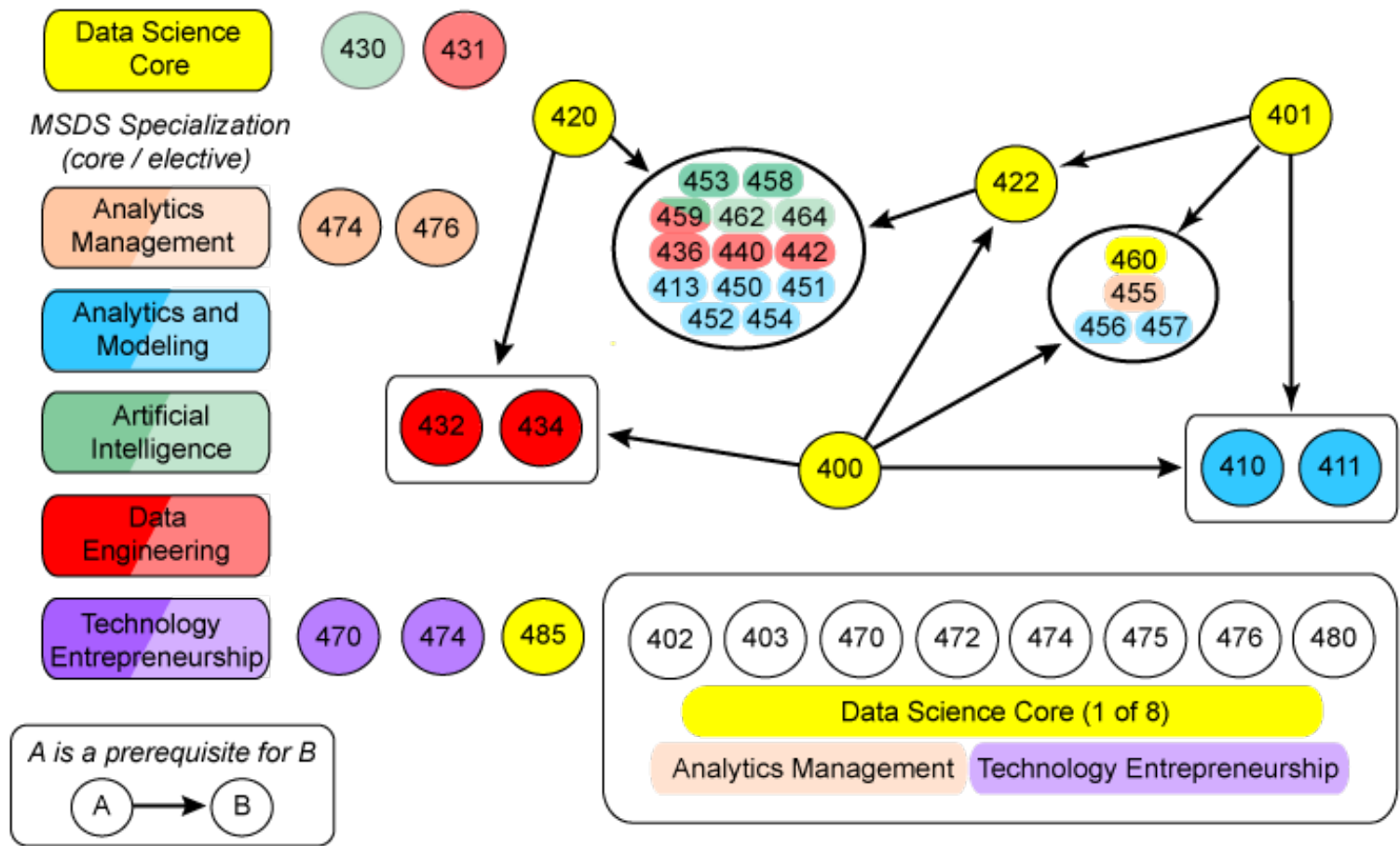
**Business Leadership
and Communications**

**Data Governance,
Ethics, and Law**

**Management
Consulting**

**Business Process
Analytics**

Curriculum Map for Graduate Courses in Data Science



The MSDS degree requires twelve courses, including a capstone course or master's thesis. Registration for the capstone (MSDS 498) or thesis (MSDS 590) requires prior completion of core courses and all but one elective course. This curriculum map shows hard prerequisites as checked by the registration system.

General Track

- Students can opt to tailor elective coursework to their specific professional needs
- Useful for data scientists seeking employment with small businesses and smaller-scale projects, in which a single data scientist might have to serve the functions of data analyst, data engineer, and analytics manager simultaneously
- Students choosing no specialization will take four electives of their choosing

Graduate Certificate Programs

- For the student with a bachelor's degree
- Admission requirements similar to the MSDS program
- Four to six graduate courses selected from the MSDS program

Courses:

- Analytics and Modeling
- Analytics Management
- Artificial Intelligence
- Data Engineering
- Sports Analytics
- Technology Entrepreneurship

Advanced Data Science Certificate

For the student with a master's degree in data science or a quantitative field, including training in database systems and machine learning

Four to six graduate courses selected from the MSDS program:

Corporate Certificate Program

Data science and technology education tailored for each company

Focus on issues especially relevant to the company, such as digital transformation

Courses available from MSDS specializations and from the MSIS program

Credits transferable to the full MSDS program

MSDS Accelerated Option

EARN YOUR DEGREE IN ONE YEAR

- Course load is three courses per quarter
 - Six core courses
 - Data governance course
 - Four required courses corresponding to a declared specialization
- Choose from five specializations
 - Analytics and Modeling
 - Artificial Intelligence
 - Data Engineering
 - Analytics Management
 - Technology Entrepreneurship

THE SPS COURSE EXPERIENCE

- Students move through a cohort, building strong relationships learning with a diverse group of professionals – many of whom are highly-placed in their fields
- Schedule offers flexibility and balance that allows for part-time internships and policy-related roles with area organizations



Students' Background

- Manufacturing
- Finance
- Marketing/Sales and Service
- Information Technology
- Government and Public Administration
- Business Management and Administration

Post-graduation

- Data Scientist
- Data Engineer
- Analytics Manager
- Business Intelligence and Analytics Manager
- Director, Analytics and Modeling
- Marketing Analytics

Application Requirements

- 
- Completed online application
 - Nonrefundable \$75 application fee
 - Official Transcripts
 - Two letters of recommendation
 - Statement of Purpose
 - Current resume
 - Applicants with international credentials also need:**
 - Course-by-course evaluation by an accredited NACES member
 - Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS)*

** Test scores are required for international applicants who did not complete a degree in which the courses were taught in English*



Fall 2024

APPLICATION DEADLINE

July 15, 2024

CLASSES BEGIN

September 24, 2024

Winter 2025

APPLICATION DEADLINE

October 15, 2024

CLASSES BEGIN

January 6, 2025

Spring 2025

APPLICATION DEADLINE

January 15, 2025

CLASSES BEGIN

April 1, 2024

Summer 2025

APPLICATION DEADLINE

April 15, 2025

CLASSES BEGIN

June 23, 2025

- Academic planning and course selection
- Career coaching
- Resume and cover letter guidance
- Career workshops and events
- Student experience support



- Quantitative coursework support (The Math Place)
- Writing and editing assistance (The Writing Place)
- In-course TA Assistance
- Access to science, language, and ESL tutoring
- Independent tutor referral

- Student Leadership Council (SLC)
- A Day at the Google-Chicago Office
- MSDS Alumni Panel Event

- MSDS Alumni Panel Event
- Data Science Go Bootcamp
- Career Panel Roundtable and Networking

- MSDS Student Research Expo
- Ace the Data Science Interview with Nick Singh

Northwestern University Alumni Association

Founded 140 years ago, the NAA offers a rich array of career resources and services

- Connect to a global alumni community of over 200,000
- Access to Handshake—Northwestern’s central platform for job listings, internships, and career development workshops
- Notice of career fairs and networking events





Frequently Asked Questions

- How does a degree in Data Science differ from an MBA or an MS in Statistics?
- Are there specific prerequisite courses I need before applying?
- Can I be successful in the program without a strong IT or programming background?
- Can I substitute courses that I've already taken in a previous masters program?
- Is GRE or GMAT score required to apply?

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Help is Available

ADMISSIONS ADVISER

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- 312-503-2579

TRANSCRIPTS SUBMISSION

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- MSDS Graduate Admissions
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Chicago, Illinois 60611-3008