Joint BA/MA in Computational Social Science

Department Website: http://macss.uchicago.edu

The Master of Arts in Computational Social Science (http://macss.uchicago.edu) is a two-year program of graduate study. It has a highly structured curriculum, with a total of 18 required and elective courses tailored to the disciplinary track a student follows. It features a four-course core in computational inference, big data analysis, computational modeling, and computer programming; a weekly Computation Workshop for the presentation and critique of work in progress by invited guests; and an optional summer practicum between the first and second year, allowing students to develop their research with a variety of organizations. Students submit an article-length MA thesis in their second year, after completing a three-quarter research commitment working directly with a member of our executive or affiliated faculty (http://macss.uchicago.edu/directories/full/all).

The program aims to produce leading social scientists in each of the core social science fields—economics, sociology, political science, psychology, history, and anthropology. We expect most graduates of the program to go on for the PhD, with the research and analytical skills necessary to make important contributions in their intended discipline.

Students receive close mentorship from the program’s faculty director, academic staff, and members of the executive and affiliated faculty.

In addition, they receive full professional support from the director of career services, with biweekly workshops, career planning, and employer recruitment throughout the year.

Program Requirements and Course Work

All MA students complete the equivalent of 18 graduate seminars and write an article-length MA thesis, modeled on a professional journal article, with a member of our computation faculty.

The courses are selected with the advice of the academic staff and follow different disciplinary tracks, tailored to the research commitments of the students.

Admission

Students who wish to pursue a joint BA/MA degree should consult first with their College adviser, then with the senior adviser for joint BA/MA programs (Pete Segall, psegall@uchicago.edu), and finally with the associate dean of students in the social sciences (Kelly Pollock, kpollock@uchicago.edu) in the Autumn Quarter of their third year.
Any questions about the Master of Arts in Computational Social Science can be directed to our managing director (Chad Cyrenne, c-cyrenne@uchicago.edu).

Application Requirements

- Applicants are expected to have a GPA of 3.55 or higher.
- Applications are due by February 1.
- The application (https://apply-ssd.uchicago.edu/apply) is submitted online to the dean of students of the Division of the Social Sciences. (See apply-ssd.uchicago.edu/apply.)
- BA/MA applicants should not pay the application fee. Email admissions@ssd.uchicago.edu (admissions@ssd.uchicago.edu?subject=Fee Waiver BA/MA Dual Degree Program) to ask how to receive the fee waiver.
- GRE scores are not required.
- Prospective BA/MA students are expected to complete all of their general education requirements and all but three of their BA requirements before they begin the BA/MA program in the Autumn Quarter of their fourth year.
- Up to three graduate courses can be used as electives in the undergraduate program or can be applied to the undergraduate major, by petition to the director of undergraduate studies.
- Students in the BA/MA program are charged tuition at graduate rates in their fourth year. They retain whatever aid has been provided in the College. In their fifth year, students are eligible for an award of two-thirds tuition if they achieve a 3.4 GPA over their first nine courses.
- Students may walk and receive the BA in June of their fourth year if they wish to graduate with other members of their College class.
- All other requirements for the MA degree are identical. Students must complete a total of 18 graduate courses, including the four-course core (http://macss.uchicago.edu/page/program-requirements), with the others tailored to their prior training and disciplinary path (http://macss.uchicago.edu/page/sample-course-tracks). They must attend the weekly Computation Workshop (http://macss.uchicago.edu/page/computation-workshop), and they are eligible for funded internships in the summer following their first year in the program. In their second year, they must complete the three-quarter “research commitment” with a member of the participating faculty (http://macss.uchicago.edu/directories/full/all) and submit a faculty-approved MA thesis.

How to Apply

The application for admission and financial aid is available at: https://apply-ssd.uchicago.edu/apply.
Any questions should be directed to admissions@ssd.uchicago.edu, 773.702.8415.
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Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Times was used instead of Trajan.

Times was used instead of Palatino.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.