

Computational & Data Sciences, PhD (CDS)

Upon joining the PhD program, each student is assigned an initial advisor from the DCDS faculty. This advisor meets with the student to assess their background and to advise them on course selection.

All students complete a common core curriculum as well as a domain depth requirement in a social science area. The focus of the first year is on acquiring a common set of tools and an understanding of the ranges and types of problems students may work on as they progress through the program. The entire incoming cohort takes a unique two-semester seminar sequence solely for DCDS students, which includes both general topics and a series of data-driven dives into the types of research questions that may be encountered in each of the domain areas.

In addition, students will be exposed to research in different areas through “rotations” in the fall semester of their first year. By the end of the summer following their first year, each student will put together an advisory committee of at least two DCDS faculty members (preferably from different tracks) and identify the specific track in which they plan to do research and pursue their degree.

Curriculum

Required Core Courses

Please refer to the DCDS Doctoral Student Handbook for the most up-to-date core course requirements.

Domain Depth Tracks

Students will choose one of four focus tracks: Political Science, Psychological & Brain Sciences, Social Work & Public Health, or Computational Methodologies. Please refer to the DCDS Doctoral Student Handbook for the most up-to-date domain depth track requirements.

Further Requirements

Additional requirements for this program are as follows:

- A minimum of 72 credit units beyond the bachelor's level, with a minimum of 37 being course credits (including the core curriculum)
- A minimum of 24 credit units of doctoral dissertation research
- Students must maintain a cumulative average grade of B (3.0 grade-point average) for all 72 credit units.
- Required courses must be completed with no more than one grade below a B-.
- Up to 24 graduate credit units may be transferred with the approval of the Graduate Studies Committee, which is chaired by the director of graduate studies.

In addition to fulfilling the course and research credit requirements, students must do the following:

- Complete at least two 1½-month research rotations.
- Pass a qualifying exam.
- Successfully defend a thesis proposal.
- Present and successfully defend a dissertation.
- Complete a teaching requirement consisting of two semesters of mentored teaching experience.