Master of Science in Social Data Analytics and Research

The MS in Social Data Analytics and Research (SDAR) equips students from diverse educational backgrounds with essential perspectives and methods to produce, collect, manage, analyze and synthesize all forms of societal data; apply theory and logic to transform these data into useful knowledge; and design creative research undertakings to address vital concerns of society.

Offered within the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences (EPPS), home to rigorous research and teaching programs in criminology, Geospatial Information Sciences, economics, political science, public policy and political economy, public and non-profit management, and sociology, these perspectives and methods are fundamentally multidisciplinary.

Program Description
Students complete 36 credit hours (12 classes) to earn the MS in Social Data Analytics and Research, typically over a period of 2 academic years.

The program has three components:
15 semester credit hours (5 classes) of required courses that focus on research design and practice, survey and other data production methods, and statistical analysis
12 semester credit hours (4 classes) of elective courses in one of five analytical modules:
   a. Data Collection, Production and Management, including: knowledge mining, survey research, remote sensing, satellite surveying techniques, public opinion polling, data management;
   b. Quantitative Methods, including: structural equation and multilevel modeling, categorical and limited dependent variables, time series, Bayesian analysis;
   c. Qualitative Methods, including: qualitative research methods, computer-assisted qualitative data analysis, data visualization;
   d. Design and Evaluation, including: applied research design, program evaluation, cost-benefit analysis, organizational performance assessment; and
   e. Spatial Analytics, including: spatial statistics, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) programming, GIS pattern analysis, statistics for geospatial science.
12 semester credit hours (4 classes) of elective courses in one of the seven EPPS programs identified above.

Career Options
Graduates prepare themselves for a broad array of careers in government, nonprofit organizations and private firms that call for the kinds of knowledge acquired through SDAR. These include positions requiring competencies in data science, statistical analysis, program evaluation, database management, data/knowledge mining, cost-benefit analysis, decision support systems, survey and polling design and administration, qualitative data analysis, spatial analytics, econometrics, and policy analysis, among others. Graduates are also equipped for further study leading to the PhD in a social science field and/or to an associated profession.

A full description of the SDAR program is available at: http://epps.utdallas.edu/sdar

Program Prerequisites
There are no prerequisites for admission. Note, however, that several required core courses ask for satisfactory prior completion of college algebra and/or calculus.

Admission Requirements
• completed online application
• baccalaureate degree
• 3.0 undergraduate Grade Point Average
• verbal and quantitative GRE scores of 150
• three letters of recommendation
• 1-page essay outlining background and objectives

The Graduate Admission page describes the University's general admission requirements.

Deadlines
New students are accepted for Fall and Spring semesters. For official UT Dallas application deadlines visit www.utdallas.edu/admissions/graduate. For information about the SDAR program's deadline, please contact one of the individuals below.

Contacts
For questions about the Program, contact Professor Simon Fass, Program Head of Social Data Analytics and Research at fass@utdallas.edu

For questions about the application process and admissions, contact Dominique Benavides at 972-883-6198 or at benavides@utdallas.edu

For other inquiries, contact the Masters Academic Advisor: Nora Hernandez at: nora.hernandez@utdallas.edu