DATA SCIENCES, B.S. (INFORMATION SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus
End Campus: University Park

Program Description

Data Sciences is an interdisciplinary field concerned with the integration of methods, processes, systems, and tools from Computer Science, Informatics, and Statistics, to discover, validate, and apply knowledge and actionable insights from data, across a broad range of application domains. The curriculum for the major is designed to equip students with the knowledge and the skills needed to elicit, formulate, and solve data sciences problems using modern computer science, informatics, and statistics tools for data management, machine learning, information integration, and predictive modeling, and effectively communicate their findings to a broad range of stakeholders. The students will gain the critical analytical skills needed to assess the feasibility, benefits, limitations, risks, and ethical implications of applying data sciences methods in different settings. Through experiences such as the capstone project, students should be prepared to function effectively as members of interdisciplinary data science teams to harness the potential of data to enable discovery, optimize products and processes, and inform public policy. The students in the major will specialize in one of the following options: applied, computational, or statistical modeling data sciences, as described below.

Applied Data Sciences (DATSC_BS)

This option focuses on the principles, methods, and tools for assembly, validation, organization, analysis, visualization, and interpretation of large and heterogeneous data, to support data-driven discovery and decision making, with emphasis on addressing pressing scientific, organizational, and societal challenges. A combination of required and elective courses provides students with the training and skills needed to develop advanced tools and domain-specific analyses that yield actionable knowledge from data. This option also provides critical analytical skills needed to assess the benefits and limitations of data analytics across a broad range of applications involving Big Data.

Computational Data Sciences (DTSCE_BS)

This option focuses on the computational foundations of the data sciences, including the design, implementation and analysis of software that manages the volume, heterogeneity and dynamic characteristics of large data sets and that leverages the computational power of multicore hardware. Students in this option will take upper-level courses in computer science and related fields to develop the skills necessary to construct efficient solutions to computational problems involving Big Data.

Statistical Modeling Data Sciences (DTSCS_BS)

This option focuses on statistical models and methods that are needed to discover and validate patterns in Big Data. Students in this option will take upper-level statistics and mathematics courses, learning to apply the theoretical machinery of quantitative models to the solution of real-world problems involving Big Data.

What is Data Sciences?

Data Sciences is a field that explores the methods, systems, and processes used to extract knowledge from data and turn these insights into discoveries, decisions, and actions. The emergence of massive amounts of data – also known as “big data” – found in our world through healthcare records, human sensors, digital media, and a number of other sources has increased the need for individuals who can obtain useful knowledge from big data and apply it to address major societal challenges across a variety of fields. Students pursuing this degree will develop the knowledge and skills needed to manage and analyze large-scale, unstructured data to address an expanding range of problems in industry, government, and academia.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT DATA SCIENCES (https://ist.psu.edu/prospective/undergraduate/academics/data-sciences/)

You Might Like This Program If...

• You are curious about analyzing information to discover new insights.
• You want to apply data analytics to make strategic decisions.
• You want to understand how data can be used to visualize phenomena and predict different outcomes.
• You are interested in statistics, mathematics, and the social sciences, and want to combine these disciplines to understand what data is really telling us.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WHY STUDENTS CHOOSE TO STUDY DATA SCIENCES (https://ist.psu.edu/prospective/undergraduate/academics/data-sciences/)