

SOCIAL POLICY + DATA ANALYTICS, MSSP

The Master of Science in Social Policy + Data Analytics for Social Policy Certificate (MSSP+DA) is a 1.5 year, 12 course unit program. MSSP+DA is a STEM-designated degree that empowers students to leverage social policy and data analytics to address economic, educational, and health inequities. Throughout the program, the data analytics material is taught in relationship with the various theories, approaches, and domains of social policy analysis.

You will learn to use data to help solve disparities of race, ethnicity, gender, and class across systems such as immigration, child welfare, and education. The MSSP+DA curriculum provides students with core policy courses and training and skills in the conceptual foundations of data analytics, programming of data structures, the applications of machine learning and predictive analytics, spatial analytics, and data processing techniques for web scraping and data visualization for a broader public audience. Students will learn programming languages such as SAS, R, Java, Python, GIS, and ArcGIS for the processing, cleaning, and analyzing of digital data for social policy. The program provides cutting-edge training for in-demand professionals working in the data analytics for social policy field.

For more information: <https://www.sp2.upenn.edu/program/master-of-science-in-social-policy-data-analytics-for-social-policy-certificate/>

Curriculum

A total of 12 course units plus an internship are required for graduation.

Code	Title	Course Units
Core Courses		
MSSP 6070	Practical Programming for Data Science	1
MSSP 6080	Practical Machine Learning Methods	1
MSSP 6280	Policy: Analysis of Issues, Strategy and Process	1
MSSP 6290	Research and Evaluation Design	1
MSSP 6310	Law and Social Policy	1
or MSSP 7805	Law and Social Policy: Foundations	
MSSP 6380	MSSP+DA Capstone Seminar: Telling Stories with Data	1
MSSP 6390	MSSP+DA Policy Internship in Data Analytics Seminar	0
MSSP 6680	Economics for Social Policy	1
MSSP 7100	Democratizing Data? Critical Data Studies in Algorithmic Governance	1
MSSP 7300	Community Mapping	1
MSSP 8970	Applied Linear Modeling	1
Electives		
Select 2 SP2 Electives from the following course ranges:		2
MSSP 5000-9999		
NPLD 5000-9999		
SOCW 5000-9999		
SSPP 5000-9999		

SWRK 5000-9999

Total Course Units

12

Policy Internship in Data Analytics

The MSSP+DA provides students with competitive and cutting-edge opportunities for policy internships in data analytics that emphasize competency development in both policy analysis and data analytics. These parallel competencies position graduates to work in the fast-growing and developing world of data analytics for social policy. Credit for the internship is incorporated into the MSSP+DA Capstone Seminar. The Data Analytics policy internship requires a minimum commitment of 150 hours.

The degree and major requirements displayed are intended as a guide for students entering in the Fall of 2025 and later. Students should consult with their academic program regarding final certifications and requirements for graduation.

Social Policy + Data Analytics, MSSP+DA Sample Plan of Study

The Master of Science in Social Policy + Data Analytics for Social Policy Certificate (MSSP+DA) is available as an on-campus, full-time program. While students may customize their schedules due to enrollment in an international course or study abroad experience, the grid below outlines the standard schedule and course of study for full-time students.

First Year		Course Units
Fall		
MSSP 6070	Practical Programming for Data Science	1
MSSP 6280	Policy: Analysis of Issues, Strategy and Process	1
MSSP 7100	Democratizing Data? Critical Data Studies in Algorithmic Governance	1
MSSP 8970	Applied Linear Modeling	1
		Course Units 4.00
Spring		
MSSP 6080	Practical Machine Learning Methods	1

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MSSP 6310 or MSSP 7805	Law and Social Policy or Law and Social Policy: Foundations	1
MSSP 7300	Community Mapping	1
SP2 Elective 1		1
Course Units		4.00
Second Year		
Fall		
MSSP 6290	Research and Evaluation Design	1
MSSP 6380	MSSP+DA Capstone Seminar: Telling Stories with Data	1
MSSP 6390	MSSP +DA Policy Internship in Data Analytics Seminar	0
MSSP 6680	Economics for Social Policy	1
SP2 Elective 2		1
Course Units		4.00
Total Course Units		12.00