



The University of Texas at Austin
Computer & Data Science Online

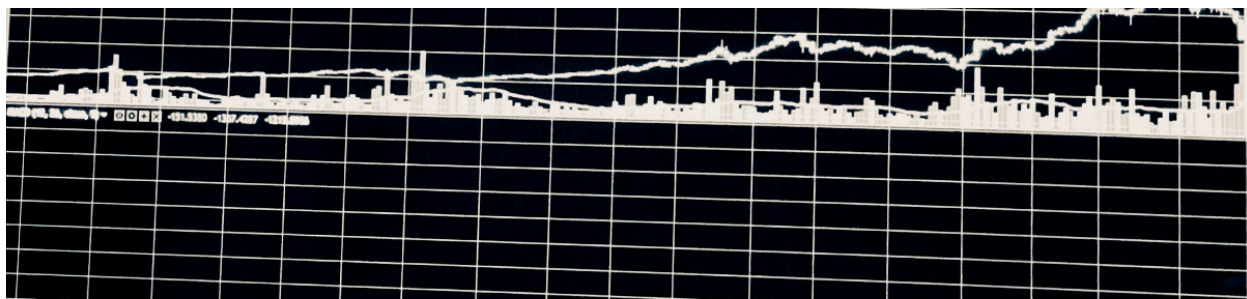
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN DATA SCIENCE

Fall 2024 Application Guide



Table of Contents

Application at a Glance	3
Application Checklist	3
Important Dates	3
Fall Application	3
Spring Application	3
Eligibility Requirements	4
Bachelor's Degree	4
GPA	4
Preferred Qualifications	4
Relevant Education	4
Relevant Background	4
Step 1	5
Apply to the Graduate School at The University of Texas at Austin	5
Step 2	6
Pay the Application Fee	6
Step 3	7
Upload Remaining Application Items to your MyStatus Portal	7
Program Requirements	7
Optional Program Items	8
Office of Graduate Admissions (OGA) Requirements	9
Step 4	10
Send Test Scores	10
Step 5	11
Review Your Status	11
Important Dates	11
Fall Application	11
Spring Application	11
After You Submit	11



Application at a Glance

We're thrilled you are considering applying to one of our master's programs! We have created this printable application guide to help you navigate through what may seem like a daunting process.

Application Checklist

- [Apply](#) to the Graduate School at The University of Texas at Austin.
- Pay the Application Fee.
- Upload remaining application items on MyStatus portal.
 - Quest Assessment
 - Mathematics and Programming Preparation Form
 - Statement of Purpose
 - CV/Resume
 - Letters of Recommendation (optional)
 - Transcripts
- Send Test Scores.
 - TOEFL/IELTS (if applicable)
 - GRE (optional)
- Review Your Status.

Important Dates

Fall Application

Application Opens	December 15
Priority Deadline	April 1
Final Deadline	May 1
Decisions Released	Late-January to Mid-June

Spring Application

Application Opens	June 1
Priority Deadline	August 15
Final Deadline	September 15
Decision Released	Late-July to Mid-November

Eligibility Requirements

Bachelor's Degree

A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution in the United States or a [comparable degree](#) from a foreign academic institution.

GPA

A cumulative [GPA of 3.0](#) or higher.

Preferred Qualifications

Relevant Education

A bachelor's degree in statistics, computer science, computer engineering, mathematics, electrical engineering or similar from a [regionally accredited institution](#) in the United States or a [comparable degree](#) from a foreign academic institution. Applicants who do not hold a degree in the degrees mentioned will have a bachelor's degree from a in an unrelated field, would like to build their technical competency and receive rigorous training in the field of data science, will have a passion for data science, and be able to show their functional use of the topic through work experience.

Relevant Background

Applicants should have an extensive background in statistics, computer science or related sciences. Level of knowledge will be assessed by review of a student's coursework and/or professional experience.

The Admissions Committee recommends that applicants who do not have a bachelor's degree in statistics, computer science or related sciences have prior coursework or experience equivalent to the courses [at this link](#).

Step 1

Apply to the Graduate School at The University of Texas at Austin

Applications are submitted electronically through [ApplyTexas](#).

1. Create an account or log-in if you already have one.
 2. Select Start/Edit Profile under “Edit your ApplyTexas Profile”.
 3. Select Start/Edit Application under “Apply to a few schools”.
 4. Select “Start a New Application”.
 5. Select “Four-year College/University and Graduate Schools”.
 - a. If this does not appear, and you are [eligible for graduate studies at UT Austin](#), [contact OGA](#) to enquire about your eligibility.
 6. Select “University of Texas at Austin (Austin)” as the target university.
 7. Select the Graduate option in the “Type of Application”.
 8. Select the available semester of entry.
 9. Scroll down to Natural Sciences and select a CDSO program. For example, the MSDS major will appear as “Data Science (MS in Data Science Online Program)”.
 10. Continue on with the application.
-

Step 2

Pay the Application Fee

1. The application fee is required in order to upload application materials. A preview of your application fee is provided at the end of [step 1.7](#) above.
2. You may by-pass this step on ApplyTexas and instead choose to pay the university directly through your MyStatus portal. In this case, the image below demonstrates how your MyStatus portal will appear.

The screenshot shows the MyStatus portal interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Dashboard', 'Admission', 'Housing', and 'Financial Aid'. The 'Admission' tab is active. A notification banner states: 'Your Fall 2023 application for US Graduate admission is **incomplete**'. Below this, there's a 'To do (required): 8 things' section. The items are: 'Submit your Mathematics Preparation Form', 'Submit your Quest Assessment', 'Pay your Application fee by the deadline' (highlighted with a pink box), 'Submit your Letter of Recommendation', 'Upload your Transcript -', 'Upload your Transcript -', and 'Submit your Statement of Purpose or Departmental Essay'. Below that is a 'Recommended: 1 thing' section with 'Review Graduate Program Requirements'. At the bottom is a 'Done: 1 thing' section with 'Graduate Program Requirements'. On the right side, there's a summary for the 'US Graduate admission application' showing semester 'Fall 2023', status 'Incomplete', major 'Data Science (MSDS, Option III)', and residency 'Non-Resident Of Texas'. There are also sections for 'Document Upload' and 'Need help?'.

3. Within 2-3 days of the submission of your ApplyTexas and application fee payment you will be able to upload applicable required materials to your MyStatus portal.

Applicants to multiple CDSO programs will be required to complete applications for each but will only have to pay the fee once as long as the applications are for the same semester. In additional ApplyTexas applications, select the option to pay the university directly. Once any additional applications are visible on your MyStatus portal, the application fee should appear as paid.

Applicants admitted to multiple programs must choose and accept admission to one program before enrolling. Although the MyStatus interface allows it, students cannot be enrolled in more than one graduate program at a time. Applicants who accept admission to multiple programs in MyStatus will be automatically enrolled in the first program for which they accepted admission.

Step 3

Upload Remaining Application Items to your MyStatus Portal

After paying the application fee on ApplyTexas, you will see your version of the following on your MyStatus portal. Review the instructions below for program and OGA requirements as listed on your portal. Do not email or mail application items. Sending paper copies of documents will significantly delay the processing of your application.

Program Requirements

The screenshot shows the MyStatus portal interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for Dashboard, Admission, Housing, Financial Aid, and my Documents. The main content area displays the user's application status for Fall 2023 US Graduate admission as 'incomplete'. A note indicates that the status may be updated within 24 hours. Below this, a 'To do (required)' section lists seven items: Mathematics Preparation Form, Quest Assessment, three Transcripts, and a Statement of Purpose or Departmental Essay. A 'Recommended' section lists one item: Graduate Program Requirements. A 'Done' section lists four items. On the right side, there is a 'US Graduate admission application' summary showing semester (Fall 2023), status (Incomplete), major (Data Science), and residency (Non-Resident Of Texas). A 'Document Upload' section is highlighted with a purple box, containing a link to the 'Document Upload System'. A 'Need help?' section provides contact information for the Graduate and International Admissions Center.

Mathematics and Programming Preparedness Form: Download the form from the Questions Specific to University of Texas at Austin section of ApplyTexas or our [website](#) and follow the instructions at the top. Upload as “Math Prep Form” through your MyStatus Document Upload System. If the option to upload as “Math Prep form” does not appear, [contact OGA](#).

Quest Assessment: The MSDS Quest Assessment is part of a holistic admissions process to assess your readiness to complete the MSDS program. Your Quest score alone is not determinative of admission in the MSDS program, which will also consider your prior grades,

work experience, your statement of purpose, and Math Prep form. These questions assess your knowledge of core topics covered in undergraduate-level linear algebra, multivariable calculus, programming, and introductory statistics courses. There is no minimum score required for admission to the MSDS program, nor is an offer of admission guaranteed for applicants who score above any particular threshold. The MSDS Assessment is to be completed in a single 60-minute session and open-book (you can use any book, hardcopy or electronic) and open-notes (e.g., lecture notes). You may use paper, a pencil, and a calculator (including R or any other statistics program on a computer). Your work on this assessment should be your own, with no help from anyone else.

To take the assessment, follow the instructions below:

- Once you receive your UT EID use your credentials to pay the MSDS Quest Assessment through UT Austin's [TXShop](#).
- Be sure to enter 1 for the Quantity, add to your cart, and use the same information entered on your ApplyTexas profile in the Billing Address section.
- After selecting Continue with Credit you will be asked if you are tax exempt– please select “no” as the assessment does not have a sales tax.
- Proceed through the University of Texas at Austin Credit Card System payment process.
- After you pay, you will receive a receipt page with a link to access and complete the MSDS Assessment. Do not go to the Quest site and log in. Only use the link provided on the receipt. If you have trouble accessing the assessment, please contact Quest with your UT EID at quest@cns.utexas.edu.

Statement of Purpose: In two double-spaced pages, describe the events/experiences that prepared you for this program, your academic and professional interests, your reasons for pursuing graduate study, and your goals related to this program. Use 1-inch margins and 12 pt font. Upload this item through your MyStatus Document Upload System.

CV/Resume: Outline your educational and work history, relevant publications, research, and patents. At the end of your CV/Resume, include a brief description of how you meet the [prerequisite courses](#) (e.g. list specific courses with grades achieved or proof of completion). Upload the item through your MyStatus Document Upload System.

If you have previously submitted an application to UT Austin (undergraduate or graduate), the MyStatus interface will use your previous materials to complete your MSDS application. *Please do not do this.* Even if you've submitted similar program materials for a previous application, be sure to retake Quest and resubmit the other program materials for this application cycle, as well. Your application must include ALL required application materials for MSDS as listed in this guide. If your MSDS application does not include all required materials with an upload date within this cycle, it will be categorized as incomplete, and will not be considered.

Optional Program Items

Opting out of submitting optional materials does not adversely impact your application.

Letters of Recommendation: You should request and manage your recommendation letters through your MyStatus portal. Recommenders can be supervisors or academic references. Do not exceed three recommendations.

GRE General Score: If you feel that it would strengthen your application, you may take the GRE and send official scores. Please see the “Is the GRE required?” and “Is there a certain score needed on the GRE to be admitted?” questions of [our FAQ](#) for further information.

Office of Graduate Admissions (OGA) Requirements

Items not listed under the Program Requirements section are OGA required items and questions must be [directed to OGA](#). These may include (but are not limited to):

Transcript(s): Review the ‘Submit Transcripts’ section of the Graduate Admission page for [instructions](#). **Note:** The verification of transcripts usually takes 2-3 business days. Sending paper copies of documents will significantly delay the processing of your application.

An official TOEFL/IELTS score: Visit [How to Apply: International Students](#) for information on exemptions.



Step 4

Send Test Scores

1. **An official TOEFL/IELTS score:** [International applicants](#) must provide a [score](#) which must be sent electronically to UT Austin. Departmental codes are not needed and emailed or uploaded scans of results to MyStatus are not accepted. It may take up to 4-6 weeks for your scores to be received. Plan accordingly to ensure your results are in the university system no later than our final deadline. Visit [How to Apply: International Students](#) for information on exemptions and how to submit scores.
2. **GRE General Score (optional):** [Send official scores](#) through ETS using UT Austin's code 6882. There is no departmental code and we do not accept self-reported (emailed or uploaded) scores.

Step 5

Review Your Status

Visit your MyStatus portal to confirm that you do not have any items remaining on the “To Do (required)” section of your MyStatus portal. While items may be processed by OGA after the deadline, your application will not be considered for review if your application status shows incomplete by the final deadline. **It is solely the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that there are no pending items on their MyStatus portal.**

If you see an item listed on your MyStatus portal as required that is not on the Program Requirements list, refer to this [site](#) and then [contact](#) OGA with your UT EID immediately.

Important Dates

Fall Application

Application Opens	December 15
Priority Deadline	April 1
Final Deadline	May 1
Decisions Released	Late-January to Mid-June

Spring Application

Application Opens	June 1
Priority Deadline	August 15
Final Deadline	September 15
Decisions Released	Late-July to Mid-November

Applying is a multi-step process. To ensure all items are turned in by the deadline, **applicants must complete the ApplyTexas portion of their application at least one week prior to the deadlines above.** Applications not completed by the final deadline will not be considered.

After You Submit

Generally, the earlier you apply, the sooner you will receive an admission decision. However, the admissions process is not linear and the priority deadline is in place to provide applicants with additional time to complete their application by the final deadline—especially in the case that an issue arises (for example, a transcript is declined or test scores are taking longer to arrive) with your application items. For this reason, you may not hear back until the very end but rest assured this will allow you enough time to enroll if admitted.
