



The University of Texas at Austin

Computer & Data Science Online

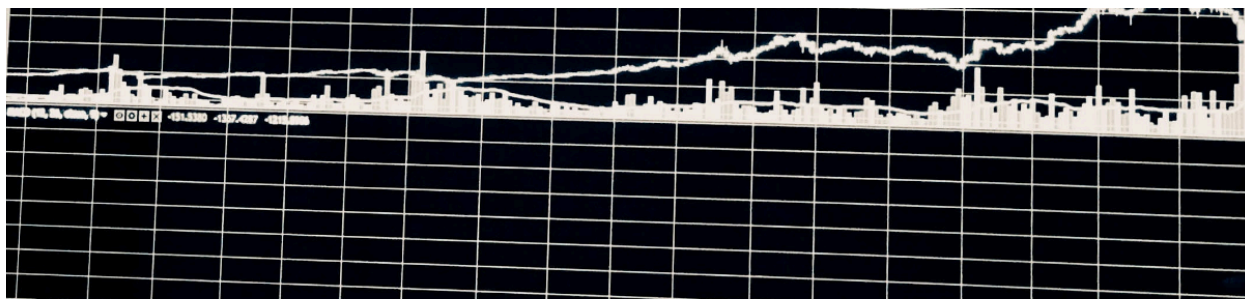
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN DATA SCIENCE

Spring 2026 Application Guide



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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 | March 15 |
| Final Deadline | April 15 |
| Decisions Released | Late-January to Mid-July |

Spring Application

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

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.

1. Log into the Graduate School application.
 2. Click “Start New Application”
 3. Click “Create Application”
 4. Click “Open Application”
 5. Select Spring 2026 in the drop down menu after “What semester are you applying to begin your graduate studies?”
 6. Select Data Science - Option III from the drop down menu after “Which graduate program are you applying to?”
 7. Continue on with the application.
-

Step 2

Pay the Application Fee

1. Within 2-3 days of the submission of your Graduate School application you will receive access to your MyStatus portal. You will be able to upload applicable required materials to this portal.
2. The application fee is required in order to complete your application. Your application fee will be paid through your MyStatus portal. 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 tabs: Dashboard, Admission, Housing, Financial Aid, and my Documents. The main header area displays "Your Fall 2023 application for US Graduate admission is **incomplete**". Below this, a note states: "Note: It may take up to 24 hours after the final credential has been received for the application status to be updated on this site." A "For Your Information" section mentions that if offered admission and employment at UT Austin, a criminal background check is required.

The central part of the page features a "To do (required): 8 things" section. The items listed 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 -
- Submit your Statement of Purpose or Departmental Essay
- Submit your Resume / CV

 Each item has a "details" button next to it. Below the "To do" section is a "Recommended: 1 thing" section with the item "Review Graduate Program Requirements". At the bottom, a "Done: 1 thing" section is visible.

On the right side, there's a "US Graduate admission application" summary box showing:

- Semester: Fall 2023
- Status: **Incomplete**
- Major: Data Science (MSDS, Option III)
- Residency for tuition: Non-Resident Of Texas

 Below this is a "Document Upload" section with a link to "Access the Document Upload System". At the bottom right, a "Need help?" section provides contact information for the Graduate and International Admissions Center.

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. 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, you will see your version of the following 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. **Applications that use past application materials will be marked as incomplete and will not be considered.**

Program Requirements

The screenshot shows the MyStatus portal interface. At the top, there's a header with the MyStatus logo and an EID field. Below the header is a navigation bar with tabs: 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 mentions a 24-hour update period. A 'To do (required)' section lists 7 items: Submit your Mathematics Preparation Form, Submit your Quest Assessment, Upload your Transcript -, Upload your Transcript -, Upload your Transcript -, Submit your Statement of Purpose or Departmental Essay, and Submit your Resume / CV. Each item has a 'details' button. A 'Recommended' section shows 1 item: Review Graduate Program Requirements. A 'Done' section shows 4 items. On the right, a sidebar shows application details: semester (Fall 2023), status (Incomplete), major (Data Science (MSDS, Option III)), and residency for tuition (Non-Resident Of Texas). A 'Document Upload' section is highlighted with a pink box, containing a link to the Document Upload System. A 'Need help?' section provides contact information for the Graduate and International Admissions Center and the program directly.

Mathematics and Programming Preparedness Form: Download the form from 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 for the MSDS Quest Assessment [here](#).
 - This payment is separate from the application fee and must be paid before accessing the Quest Assessment
- Click the grey “Pay” button to be redirected to the University of Texas at Austin Credit Card System. Enter your card information and billing address using the same information entered on your Graduate School application profile and click the green “Submit” button.
- If you experience any issues submitting your payment, please screenshot the entire screen to include the system clock and contact Quest using the “Contact” button in the top navigation. If prompted, provide them with your screenshot.
- After your payment is confirmed, you will be automatically enrolled in the course. Please proceed to quest.cns.utexas.edu/student/courses and look for your assessment.
- If you are already enrolled in an institution through Quest, please ensure that the dropdowns provided match “Data Science” and “MSDS Assessment”.
- After clicking on your course, please note that the assessment may take a few minutes to load. If you see a blank screen, please give Quest about 5 mins to load your assignments.
- If you do not see any assignments after five minutes, contact Quest using the “Contact” button at the top of the page.

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 this 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. ***All materials must have a submit date within the current application cycle.*** 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.

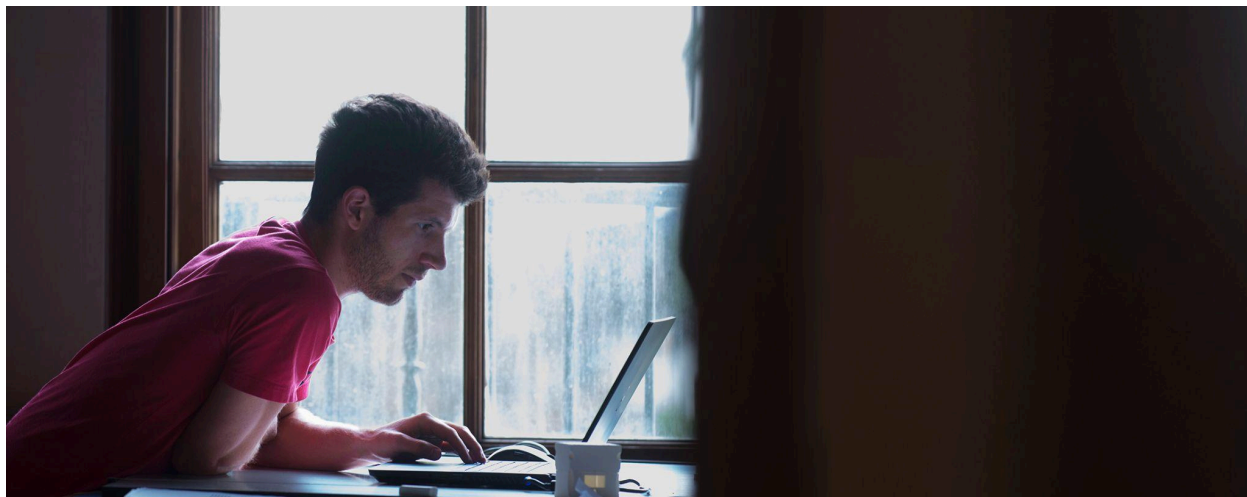
GRE General Score: If you feel that it would strengthen your application, you may take the GRE and send official scores. Please see the “Is the GRE required?” and “Is there a certain score needed on the GRE to be admitted?” questions of [our FAQ](#) for further information.

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. This includes a new Resume and Statement of Purpose if you have ever applied to UT Austin before.**

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 |
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Spring Application

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
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| Priority Deadline | August 1 |
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Applying is a multi-step process. To ensure all items are turned in by the deadline, **applicants must complete the Graduate School portion of their application at least one week prior to the deadlines above.** Applications not completed by the final deadline will not be considered. Emailing individuals outside of our office, such as Deans or department chairs, will not result in the reinstatement of your application and will delay the processing time of your and other applications.

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.
