Master of Science Program in Analytics

The Master of Science in Analytics will give students thorough knowledge of techniques in the field of analytics and data science, and the ability to apply them to real-world business scenarios. Building from a core in applied statistics, students will be provided with advanced analytical training to develop their ability to draw insights from big data, including: machine learning and predictive analytics, deep learning, optimization, data engineering, statistical methods; and other sophisticated techniques for analyzing complex data. The program is highly applied in nature, integrating business strategy, project-based learning, simulations, case studies, and specific electives addressing the analytical needs of various industry sectors. Through partnerships with key employers, the program also provides students with a client based, 2 term Capstone experience as well as access to career networks and employment pathways upon graduation.

- Program type: masters degree program
- Program structure, courses, requirements, and application ([https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/credit/master-science-analytics/index/](https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/credit/master-science-analytics/index/))
- Location: Gleacher Center and Cityfront Center (NBC Tower)
- Full-time: weekday, weekday evening, and Saturday classes available
- Part-time: weekday evenings and Saturday classes available
- Time to completion: 1-4 years
- Only courses with a grade of B- or better will count toward degree requirements

Minimum g.p.a. for satisfactory academic progress: 2.7

Admission criteria:
- Online application
- One transcript from each prior academic institution
- Candidate statement
- Resume or CV

Applicants who attended an international university must also:
- Satisfy English language proficiency requirement
- Provide course by course evaluation

Program requirements:
12 course curriculum (Academic Year 2020-21 entering students)
- Stats Bootcamp (noncredit)
- Foundational Skills courses (1-2 non-credit courses, depending on program experience)
- Core courses (7)
- Electives (3)
- Capstone project (2)

Foundational Courses (1-2):

Foundation courses provide the basis for our rigorous analytics degree that will support the theoretical, strategic, and practical analytics studies in more advanced courses. Students with sufficient preparation may be eligible to bypass the programming course.

Pre-quarter foundational courses:
- Based on results of a linear algebra pre-test, students may also be required to take the following non-credit course
- Linear Algebra (online course required prior to program start)
- MSCA 31000 Introduction to Statistical Concepts (non-credit, online course required prior to program start)
- MSCA 37016 Advanced Linear Algebra for Machine Learning (non-credit, online course required prior to program start)
- MSCA 37006 R Workshop

First quarter foundational course
MSCA 37010 Programming for Analytics (noncredit)

- Introduction to Statistical Concepts (non-credit, online course required prior to program start)
- Based on results of a pre-test, students may also be required to take the following non-credit courses:
  - Linear Algebra (online course required prior to program start)
  - MSCA 37010: Programming for Analytics

**MScA Core requirements**:

- MSCA 31006 Time Series Analysis and Forecasting
- MSCA 31007 Statistical Analysis
- MSCA 31008 Data Mining Principles
- MSCA 31009 Machine Learning & Predictive Analytics
- MSCA 31010 Linear and Non-Linear Models
- MSCA 31012 Data Engineering Platforms for Analytics
- MSCA 31003 Leadership Skills
- MSCA 31001 Research Design for Business Applications
- MSCA 31013 Big Data Platforms

**MScA Electives**:

- MSCA 31013 Big Data Platforms
- MSCA 32001 Financial Analytics
- MSCA 32003 Marketing Analytics
- MSCA 32004 Risk Analytics
- MSCA 32005 Real Time Analytics
- MSCA 32007 Data Visualization Techniques
- MSCA 32009 Health Analytics
- MSCA 32013 Optimization and Simulation Methods for Analytics
- MSCA 32014 Bayesian Methods
- MSCA 32015 Digital Marketing Analytics in Theory and Practice
- MSCA 32017 Advanced Machine Learning & Artificial Intelligence
- MSCA 32018 Natural Language Processing and Cognitive Computing
- MSCA 32019 Real-Time Intelligent Systems
- MSCA 32020 Reinforcement Learning

**Capstone project**:

- MSCA 34000 Capstone Project Implementation
- MSCA 34001 Capstone Project Writing

Autumn 2020 students selecting the thirteen course program will take over three quarters MSCA 31001: Research Design for Business Applications and the following two capstone courses

- MSCA 34000 Capstone Project Implementation (only option for students starting in Autumn 2020 selecting a thirteen course curriculum)
- MSCA 34001 Capstone Project Writing (only option for students starting in Autumn 2020 selecting a thirteen course curriculum)

**Non-credit workshops & short courses**

- MSCA 37001 Hadoop Workshop
- MSCA 37002 Linux Workshop
- MSCA 37003 Python Workshop
- MSCA 37006 R Workshop
- MSCA 37011 Deep Learning & Image Recognition
- MSCA 37013 Ethics In Big Data Analytics
- MSCA 37014 Python for Analytics
- MSCA 37015 Introduction to Ethics in Data Analytics
M.S. IN ANALYTICS COURSES

MSCA 31000. Introduction to Statistical Concepts. 000 Units.
This course provides general exposure to basic statistical concepts that are necessary for students to understand
the content presented in more advanced courses in the program. The course covers theoretical distributions and
the way these distributions are used to assign probabilities to events in some depth. The course also introduces
students to descriptive statistical methods to explore and summarize data, methodologies for sampling units for
measurement or analysis, drawing inferences on the basis of knowledge gained from samples to populations,
assessing relationships between variables, and making predictions based upon relationships between variables.
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring

MSCA 31001. Research Design for Business Applications. 100 Units.
In addition to theory and experimentation, big data analytics has now emerged as an alternative way to discover
new knowledge. This course covers the analytics research process from the translation of business problems
into researchable questions that can be addressed by using analytics, development of data sources to address
each key researchable issue, to the translation of research results back to business implications. By completing
the course, students will be able to: frame a business problem; map alternative solutions to develop a plan;
identify potential sources or relevant data; understand analytical principles that can be applied to design data-
gathering experiments; explain the pros and cons of the selected methodology to the analytical team as well
as non-analysts. Students will develop a research proposal to produce knowledge from data to address a real
business problem in small steps throughout the course.
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Summer Winter

MSCA 31003. Leadership Skills. 100 Units.
In Leadership Skills: Teams, Strategies, and Communications, students learn how to work effectively in
teams to identify, structure, and communicate the business value of data analytics to an organization. The
goals of the course are (1) to identify points in an organization that can benefit from analytics; (2) to structure
analytic problems from a strategic perspective, thereby identifying business impact; (3) to develop the ability
to communicate the power of analytics to others, especially senior leaders; and (4) to work in a team to
accomplish these and related goals successfully. At the end of the course, students should have the ability to
describe business problems that lend themselves to a data analytics approach, position these problems from the
perspective of a coherent business strategy, and represent the power of analytics to a business audience. Students
should also understand how to harness the powerful dynamics of a team to achieve excellence in the world of
data analytics.
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Summer Winter

MSCA 31006. Time Series Analysis and Forecasting. 100 Units.
Time Series Analysis is a science as well as the art of making rational predictions based on previous records. It
is widely used in various fields in today’s business settings. For example, airline companies employ time series
to predict traffic volume and schedule flights; financial agencies measure market risk via stock price series;
marketing analysts study the impact of a newly proposed advertisement by the sales series. A comprehensive
knowledge of time series analysis is essential to the modern data scientist/analytics. This course covers important
issues in applied time series analysis: a solid knowledge of time series models and their theoretical properties;
how to analyze time series data by using mainstream statistical software; practical experience in real data
analysis and presentation of their findings in a logical and clear way to various audiences.
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Summer Winter
Prerequisite(s): MSCA 31007: Statistical Analysis

MSCA 31007. Statistical Analysis. 100 Units.
This course provides a comprehensive and practical introduction to statistical data analysis. The statistical
techniques taught in this course will enable students to analyze complex datasets and formulate and solve
real-world problems to facilitate data-driven decisions. Throughout the course, students will learn concepts
and fundamentals of statistical inference and regression analysis by studying theory, developing intuition, and
working through several practical examples. Students will become proficient in interpreting standard regression
output and conducting model selection and validation. Students will also learn the statistical programming
language used to construct examples and homework exercises. Examples will be constructed using R. Students
will have many opportunities to apply the new concepts to real data and develop their own statistical routines.
The course also addresses the importance of quality control and reproducibility when conducting research and
developing working product.
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Summer Winter
Prerequisite(s): MSCA 31006: Time Series Analysis and Forecasting

MSCA 31008. Data Mining Principles. 100 Units.
Drawing on statistics, artificial intelligence and machine learning, the data mining process aims at discovering
novel, interesting and actionable patterns in large datasets. This class will introduce the student to the
fundamentals of data mining: association and sequence rules discovery, memory-based reasoning, classification
and regression decision trees, comparison of data mining models, logistic models, scorecard models, and neural
network models. The class follows a learn-by-doing approach in which the student will complete bi-weekly
assignments using real world datasets. The student will also propose and complete a data mining research project of their own design.

Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Summer Winter
Prerequisite(s): MSCA 31007: Statistical Analysis

**MSCA 31009. Machine Learning & Predictive Analytics. 100 Units.**

This course in advanced data mining will provide a practical, hands-on set of lectures surrounding modern predictive analytics and machine learning algorithms and techniques. It will emphasize practice over mathematical theory, and students will spend a considerable amount of class time gaining experience with each algorithm using existing packages in R, Python, and Linux libraries. The course will cover the following topics: regression and logistic regression, regularized regression including the lasso and elastic net techniques, support vector machines, neural networks, decision trees, boosted decision trees and random forests, online learning, k-means and special clustering, and survival analysis.

Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Summer Winter
Prerequisite(s): MSCA 31008: Data Mining Principles, MSCA 31010: Linear and Non-Linear Models; MSCA 37014: Python for Analytics

**MSCA 31010. Linear and Non-Linear Models. 100 Units.**

This course concentrates on the following topics: Review of statistical inference based on linear model, extension to the linear model by removing the assumption of Gaussian distribution for the output (Generalized Linear Model), extension to the linear model by allowing a correlation structure for the model residuals (mixed effect models), and extension of the linear model by relaxing the requirement that inputs are combined linearly (nonparametric regression, regime switches). Course emphasizes applications of these models to various fields and covers main steps of building analytics from visualizing data and building intuition about their structure and patterns to selecting appropriate statistical method to interpretation of the results and building analytical model. Topics are illustrated by data analysis projects using R. Familiarity with R at some basic level is not a requirement but recommendation. Students can pick up the programming language by following the descriptions of the examples.

Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Summer Winter
Prerequisite(s): MSCA 31007: Statistical Analysis

**MSCA 31011. Statistical Analysis Review. 000 Units.**

Lab / TA review session to supplement MSCA 31007: Statistical Analysis

**MSCA 31012. Data Engineering Platforms for Analytics. 100 Units.**

Effective data engineering is an essential first step in building an analytics-driven competitive advantage in the market. Modern data engineering platforms reduce manual data preparation by automating processes, which in turn, enable companies to focus on deriving efficiencies in data processing to develop impactful business insights. This course provides students with a thorough understanding of the fundamentals of data engineering platforms, for both operational and analytical use cases, while gaining hands-on expertise in building these platforms in a way to develop analytical solutions effectively. Students will have the opportunity to construct both relational and analytical databases on the cloud or on premise from real-life datasets while using programmatic or configuration driven data pipelines. By the end of the course, students will be able to design and implement an end-to-end data engineering platform capable of supporting sustainable analytics solutions.

Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Summer Winter

**MSCA 31013. Big Data Platforms. 100 Units.**

This course teaches students how to approach Big Data and large-scale machine learning applications. While there is no single definition of Big Data and multiple emerging software packages exist to work with Big Data, we will cover the most popular approaches. Students will learn the Big Data infrastructure, including Linux, Massive parallelization and Distributed Computing, and how to apply both Hadoop and Spark map-reduce concepts for clustering, similarity search, web analytics and classification. During the course, we will cover the applications of NoSQL systems, such as JSON stores, object storage and Elasticsearch. The cloud computing section of the course will focus on virtualization and container orchestration, including virtual machines, dockers and Kubernetes. During the course students will gain hands-on expertise leveraging Hive, Pig, Python and PySpark for Big Data applications in client-server environment.

Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Summer Winter
Prerequisite(s): MSCA 31012: Data Engineering Platforms for Analytics; MSCA 31009 Machine Learning and Predictive Analytics

**MSCA 31015. Data Science for Consulting. 100 Units.**

The demand for analytics and data-driven decision making creates a market demand for expertise driven leadership - evidenced in knowledgeable consultants that bring data science and results-driven impact to clients. The successful data science leader / consultant brings an uncommon combination of deep business acumen, data literacy, leading edge methodology experience, inspirational team leadership, client communication management and organizational change skills. Successful consultants rely on a variety of consulting tools to diagnose organizational problems, identify solutions and deliver those solutions. The Data Science for Consulting course will enable students: 1) Understanding the structure of consulting organizations and engagements 2) Developing data science solutions to enterprise problems through employing traditional consulting frameworks and
best practice tools. 3) Practicing successful project delivery through effective data discovery, communication, 
entrepreneurial team leadership and client relationship management.
Instructor(s): Gregory Green, Marco Serrato, Donald Patchell Terms Offered: Autumn Summer Winter 
Prerequisite(s): Restricted to MSCA & MSAP students only.

MSCA 32001. Financial Analytics. 100 Units.
This course concentrates on the following topics: review of financial markets and assets traded on them; main 
characteristics of financial analytics: returns, yields, volatility; review of stochastic models of market price 
and their statistical representations; concept of arbitrage, elements of arbitrage pricing approach; principles of 
volatility analyses, implied vs. realized volatility; correlation, cointegration and other relationships between 
various financial assets; market risk analytics and management of portfolios of financial assets. The course puts 
special emphasis on covering main steps of building analytics from visualizing data and building intuition 
about their structure and patterns to selecting appropriate statistical method to interpretation of the results and 
building analytical models. Topics are illustrated by data analysis projects using R. Basic familiarity with R is a 
requirement.
Terms Offered: Summer Winter 
Prerequisite(s): MSCA 31007: Statistical Analysis

MSCA 32003. Marketing Analytics. 100 Units.
(Data Science for Algorithmic Marketing) This course focuses on data science methods and algorithms for that 
are used to develop marketing strategies, and create a link between marketing, customer behavior and business 
outcome. The course will focus on analytical techniques organized according to the Strategic Marketing Process. 
The course would cover algorithms for competitive analysis and market sizing, market segmentation, targeted 
marketing via database marketing, design of new products, market sizing & forecasting via diffusion models, 
real time product positioning, algorithmic marketing in the digital world, pricing and promotions, marketing 
effectiveness and ROI. The course will use a combination of lecture, in-class discussions, and group work. 
Terms Offered: Summer 
Prerequisite(s): MSCA 31007: Statistical Analysis

MSCA 32004. Risk Analytics. 100 Units.
Undergraduate level. This course teaches analytical tools commonly employed in the areas of credit and insurance risk. In the area of credit risk, students at the end of the course should be able to: Understand the business problems and 
their challenges in the consumer credit risk analytics, design and apply analytical approaches tailored to 
each problem, and identify and address the underlying assumptions in the designed approaches. In the area of 
insurance risk, students should be able to: Understand various risks related to the insurance business, in 
particular the underwriting or pricing risks, quantify and price an individual insurance risk exposure and 
construct customer segmentation by using statistical and actuarial approaches, and assess company's overall risk 
management performance at the portfolio level. 
Terms Offered: Summer 
Prerequisite(s): MSCA 31007: Statistical Analysis

MSCA 32005. Real Time Analytics. 100 Units.
One of the most actively developing areas of analytics is the real time analytics because of the growing number of 
data sources capable of collecting data round the clock in ever-larger amounts and with more complex structure; 
penetration of smart sensors everywhere where data collection used to be not possible, from micro to macro 
world and into hostile environments unsuitable for human observers; increasing demand for decisions made at latencies below human reaction time. Conducting real time analysis is different from the traditional data analysis 
in batch mode. Streaming data makes the very concept of sample nonexistent. Usual static sample characteristics, 
like p-value turn into dynamically changing processes. The old statistical concept of sufficient statistics may be 
getting a whole new meaning in the context of streaming data. The focus of the course is on stochastic methods 
suitable for real time analysis and their statistical implementations. Students will work with real data streaming 
live from the course server. We will learn about stochastic processes observed at random times and apply them 
to problems of monitoring, early event detection, prediction and control. Students are expected to be comfortable 
early enough with R to write software for processing and responding to streaming data. 
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring 
Prerequisite(s): MSCA 31006: Time Series and Forecasting Analysis

MSCA 32007. Data Visualization Techniques. 100 Units.
This course teaches students how to work with real-world data and leverage analytics to help solve business 
problems. We will examine data requirements and sources of data; utilize statistical techniques and visualization 
methods to evaluate data completeness and quality; assess and compare model performance; learn how 
to effectively communicate analytical insights to non-technical audience. Students will learn through a 
combination of in-class discussions, case studies, and team projects. Team exercises will teach students effectively 
communicate between business process owners and analytical experts to overcome typical barriers in Business 
Analytics, such as data availability, resource constraints, and resistance to change. 
Terms Offered: Winter

MSCA 32009. Health Analytics. 100 Units.
Given the breadth of the field of health analytics, this course will provide an overview of the development and 
rapid expansion of analytics in healthcare, major and emerging topical areas, and current issues related to
research methods to improve human health. We will cover such topics as security concerns unique to the field, research design strategies, and the integration of epidemiologic and quality improvement methodologies to operationalize data for continuous improvement. Students will be introduced to the application of predictive analytics to healthcare. Students will understand factors impacting the delivery of quality and safe patient care and the application of data-driven methods to improve care at the healthcare system level, design approaches to answering a research question at the population level, become familiar with the application of data analytics to impacting care at the provider level through Clinical Decision Systems, and understand the process of a Clinical Trail.
Terms Offered: Winter

MSCA 32010. Linear Algebra and Matrix Analysis. 100 Units.
The objective of this course is to provide students a strong foundation on linear equations and matrices. On completion of this course, students will be able to formulate, apply and interpret systems of linear equations and matrices, interpret data analytics problems in elementary linear algebra, and demonstrate understanding of various applications using linear transformations.
Terms Offered: Autumn Winter

MSCA 32013. Optimization and Simulation Methods for Analytics. 100 Units.
This course introduces students to how optimization and simulation techniques can be used to solve many real-life problems. It will cover two classes of optimization methods. First class has been developed to optimize real, non-simulated systems or to find the optimal solution of a mathematical model. The methods that belong to this class include linear programming, quadratic programming and mixed-integer programming. Second class of methods has been developed to optimize a simulation model. The difference with the classical mathematical programming methods is that the objective function (which is the function to be minimized or maximized) is not known explicitly and is defined by the simulation model (computer code). The course will demonstrate multiple approaches to build simulation models, such as discrete event simulations and agent-based simulations. Then, it will show how stochastic optimization and heuristic approaches can be used to analyze the simulated system and design a sequence of computational experiments that allow to develop a basic understanding of a particular simulation model or system through exploration of the parameter space, to find robust plausible behaviors and conditions and robust near-optimal solutions that are not prone to being unstable under small perturbations.
Terms Offered: Summer Winter
Prerequisite(s): MSCA 31007: Statistical Analysis

MSCA 32014. Bayesian Methods. 100 Units.
Bayesian inference is a method of statistical learning in which Bayes’ theorem is used to understand probability distributions of unobserved variables, like model parameters or predictions for future observations. Bayesian analysis is especially important because it naturally allows updating the probability for a model or hypothesis as more evidence or information becomes available. This property of Bayesian approach plays significant role in dynamic analysis of a sequences of data. Applications of Bayesian analysis have exploded in recent period thanks to advances in computing techniques that made Bayesian approaches like Gibbs sampling, Markov Chain Monte Carlo, Dirichlet processes the main tools for advanced machine learning. The focus of this course is on foundations of Bayesian approach, its applications via hierarchical models, linear and generalized linear models, mixed models and various types of Bayesian decision making. Students will learn necessary facts of probability theory, fundamentals of Bayesian method as well as most modern applications of the approach by accessing through R important software products for efficient sampling: JAGS and STAN. Students, are expected to be comfortable with coding in R and ready to learn new concepts of theory and practice of Bayesian approach.
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring
Prerequisite(s): MSCA 31010: Linear and Non-Linear Models

MSCA 32015. Digital Marketing Analytics in Theory and Practice. 100 Units.
Successfully marketing brands today requires a well-balanced blend of art and science. This course introduces students to the science of web analytics while casting a keen eye toward the artful use of numbers found in the digital space. The goal is to provide marketers with the foundation needed to apply data analytics to real-world challenges they confront daily in their professional lives. Students will learn to identify the web analytic tool right for their specific needs; understand valid and reliable ways to collect, analyze, and visualize data from the web; and utilize data in decision making for their agencies, organizations or clients. By completing this course, students will gain an understanding of the motivations behind data collection and analysis methods used by marketing professionals; learn to evaluate and choose appropriate web analytics tools and techniques; understand frameworks and approaches to measuring consumers’ digital actions; earn familiarity with the unique measurement opportunities and challenges presented by New Media; gain hands-on, working knowledge of a step-by-step approach to planning, collecting, analyzing, and reporting data; utilize tools to collect data using today’s most important online techniques: performing bulk downloads, tapping APIs, and scraping webpages; and understand approaches to visualizing data effectively.
Terms Offered: Autumn

MSCA 32017. Advanced Machine Learning & Artificial Intelligence. 100 Units.
Since the era of big data started, challenges associated with data analysis have grown significantly in different directions: First, the technological infrastructure had to be developed that can hold and process large amounts of data from different sources and of multiple not always well formalized formats. Second, data analysis methods
had to be reviewed, selected and modified to work in distributed computational environments like combinations of in-house clusters of servers and cloud. But the biggest challenge of all is learning to think differently in order to ask new types of questions that could not be answered by analyses of less complex data streams with less complex technological infrastructure. In recent years significant progress has been achieved in creating technological ecosystems for big data analysis. Innovative technologies such as open source projects MapReduce, Hadoop, Spark, Storm, Kafka, TensorFlow, H2O, etc. allowed us to look at depths of data unseen before. We have now growing number of sources and educational courses introducing these new tools. It appeared little more difficult to develop new data analysis methods appropriate for the new data ecosystems. There are some new interesting ideas, there is significant

Terms Offered: Summer Winter
Prerequisite(s): Required: MSCA 31009: Machine Learning & Predictive Analytics Recommended: MSCA 37011 Deep Learning & Image Recognition

MSCA 32018. Natural Language Processing and Cognitive Computing. 100 Units.
Extracting actionable insights from unstructured text and designing cognitive applications have become significant areas of application for analytics. Students in this course will learn foundations of natural language processing, including; concept extraction; text summarization and topic modeling; part of speech tagging; named entity recognition; semantic roles and sentiment analysis. For advanced NLP applications, we will focus on feature extraction from unstructured text, including word and paragraph embedding and representing words and paragraphs as vectors. For cognitive analytics section of the course, students will practice designing question answering systems with intent classification, semantic knowledge extraction and reasoning under uncertainty. Students will gain hands-on expertise applying Python for text analysis tasks, as well as practice with multiple IBM Watson services, including: Watson Discovery, Watson Conversation, Watson Natural Language Classification and Watson Natural Language Understanding. Prerequisites: MSCA 31013 Big Data Platforms and MSCA 31007 Statistical Analysis
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring
Prerequisite(s): MSCA 31008: Data Mining Principles

MSCA 32019. Real-Time Intelligent Systems. 100 Units.
Developing end-to-end automation and intelligent systems is now the most advanced area of application for analytics. Building such systems requires proficiency in programming, understanding of computer systems, as well as knowledge of related analytical methodologies, which are the skills that this course aims to teach to students. The course focuses on python and is tailored for students with basic programming knowledge in Python. The course is partially project based. During the first three sessions, we will review basic python concepts and then learn more advanced python and the ways to use Python to handle large data flows. The later sessions are project based and will focus on developing end-to-end analytical solutions in the following areas: Finance and trading, blockchains and crypto-currencies, image recognition, and video surveillance systems.
Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): MSCA 31007: Statistical Analysis Recommended: MSCA 37014: Python for Analytics

MSCA 32020. Reinforcement Learning. 100 Units.
This course is an introduction to reinforcement learning, also known as neuro-dynamic programming. It discusses basic and advanced concepts in reinforcement learning and provides several practical applications. Reinforcement learning refers to a system or agent interacting with an environment and learning how to behave optimally in such environment. An environment typically includes time, actions, states, uncertainty and rewards. Reinforcement learning combines neuro networks and dynamic programming to find an optimal behavior or policy of the system or agent in complex environment setting. Neuro networks approximations are used to circumvent the well-known ‘curse of dimensionality’ which have been a barrier to solving many practical applications. Dynamic programming is the key learning mechanism that the system or the agent uses to interact with the environment and improve its performance. Students will master key learning techniques and will become proficient in applying these techniques to complex stochastic decision processes and intelligent control.
Terms Offered: Spring Summer Winter
Prerequisite(s): MSCA 31007 Statistical Analysis

MSCA 32021. Machine Learning Operations. 100 Units.
The objective of this course is two-folds - first, to understand what Machine Learning Operations (MLOps) is and why it is a key component in enterprise production deployment of machine learning projects. Second, to expose students to software engineering, model engineering and state-of-the-art deployment engineering with hands-on platform and tools experience. This course crosses the chasm that separates machine learning projects/experiments and enterprise production deployment. It covers 3 pillars in MLOps: software engineering such as software architecture, Continuous Integration/Continuous Delivery and data versioning; model engineering such as AutoML and A/B experimentation; and deployment engineering such as docker containers and model monitoring. The course focuses on best practices in the industry that are critical to enterprise production deployment of machine learning projects. Having completed this course, a student understands the machine learning lifecycle and what it takes to go from ideation to operationalization in an enterprise environment. Furthermore, students get exposure to state-of-the-art MLOps platforms such as allegro (https://allegro.ai/), xpresso https://abzooba.com/xpresso-ai), Dataiku (https://www.dataiku.com/), LityxIQ (https://lityx.com/), DataRobot (https://www.datarobot.com/), AWS SageMaker (https://aws.amazon.com/sagemaker/), and technologies such as GitHub, Jenkins, slack, docker, and kubernetes.
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Instructor(s): Arnab Bose
Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): MSCA 31009: Machine Learning & Predictive Analytics

MSCA 34000. Capstone Project Implementation. 100 Units.
The capstone project implementation course is an independent study offered during the second quarter of the three-quarters long capstone process. With the guidance of a faculty member, student teams implement the capstone proposal written as part the Research Design for Business Applications course completed during the first quarter. Teams engineer an analytical solution and develop insights from data that would address the problem posed by the client industry partner. Prerequisites: MSCA 31001 Research Design for Business Applications and Approved Capstone Proposal.

MSCA 34001. Capstone Project Writing. 100 Units.
Capstone Project writing is the last course in which teams complete the capstone process by writing a report and developing a presentation that describe the analytical solution they devised to address a problem posed by their client industry partners. Teams submit the report to the program as well as the client partner and present their findings in the MSCA Capstone Showcase at the end of the quarter.
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter
Prerequisite(s): MSCA 31001 Research Design for Business Applications and Approved Capstone Proposal.

MSCA 34002. Capstone I. 100 Units.
The overarching goal of this course is to take students two steps closer to being “Complete Data Scientists”. The first step is by letting students manage and solve a real data science project with real clients and real problems. Students will complete the design of their Capstone Projects, and begin the implementation. The second step is by exposing them to data science methodologies in the absence of pre-existing data - by exposing them to quantitative methodologies in optimally designing data collection tasks. This course covers the Business analytic process from the translation of business problems and opportunities into questions that can be addressed by using data science, development of analytical plans including methodologies and data to address these issues, and initial implementation of these analytical plan.
Instructor(s): Anil Chaturvedi, Gregory Green
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Summer Winter
Prerequisite(s): Required: 6 Core Courses Completed from MSCA Curriculum. Restricted to MScA students completing the 12-course program curriculum.

MSCA 34003. Capstone II. 100 Units.
The Capstone 2 class is designed to: 1) Provide students maximum flexibility in the latter stages of their Capstone project to work heavily with their Capstone advisors in concluding the execution of the analytic methodology and any client / sponsor deliverables for the project. 2) Provide maximum support to students in the curation and delivery of key project communications: a) Formal research paper. b) Formal business presentation of project details, value, findings and recommendations. c) Live presentation by the team in Capstone Showcase including question / answer session with a judging panel.
Instructor(s): Donald Patchell
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Summer Winter
Prerequisite(s): Required: MSCA 34002 Capstone 1. Restricted to MScA students completing the 12-course program curriculum.

MSCA 37001. Hadoop Workshop. 000 Units.
This short course is designed to provide a brief, practical introduction to working with data on a Hadoop cluster. The course is aimed at students with no prior knowledge of Hadoop. Topics covered include loading data into Hadoop cluster, using Hive HQL and using Pig script language. Course includes live demos and tutorials so students should complete exercises in class. Students who complete the course will acquire skills to be able to take further studies in Big Data and Text Analytics course.

MSCA 37002. Linux Workshop. 000 Units.
This short practical course is designed to provide a brief introduction to Linux operating system. It is aimed at students with no prior knowledge of Linux. Topics covered include uploading files to Linux account, working with files in Linux and managing processes in Linux shell. The course includes live demos and tutorials. Students who complete this tutorial course will acquire skills to be able to take further studies in Big Data and Text Analytics course.

MSCA 37003. Python Workshop. 000 Units.
This short course is designed to provide a brief introduction to Python programming language to students with no prior knowledge of Python. Topics covered in the course include Python data types, reading/writing data files, flow control in Python and working with Python modules. The course also introduces Spyder and Jupyter GUIs. Students who complete this introductory course should be able to write and execute simple Python scripts and take further studies in Big Data and Text Analytics course.

MSCA 37004. RCC Workshop. 000 Units.
TBD

MSCA 37005. Tableau Workshop. 000 Units.
TBD
MSCA 37006. R Workshop. 000 Units.
This one-day workshop is an introduction to the essential concepts and techniques for the statistical computing language R. Topics covered include the R and R Studio environment, arithmetic, basic data structure, importing and exporting data, visualization, and basic statistics. No prior R or programming experience is required.

MSCA 37010. Programming for Analytics. 000 Units.
This course introduces the essential general programming concepts and techniques to a data analytics audience without prior programming experience. The goal is to equip the students with the necessary programming skill to be successful in the other courses in the MSCA program. Topics covered include: boolean, numbers, loops, function, debugging, R’s specific (such as list, data frame, factor, apply, R Markdown), Python’s specific (such as NumPy, Pandas, Jupyter notebook), version control, and docker. Examples are drawn from the problems and programming patterns often encountered in data analysis. It will use the programming language R in the first part of the course and Python in the second part.
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring

MSCA 37011. Deep Learning & Image Recognition. 000 Units.
This course in Deep Learning and Image Recognition will provide a practical, hands-on set of lectures on Deep Learning and Image Processing tools and techniques. It will emphasize practice over advanced mathematical theory, and students will spend a considerable amount of class time gaining experience on Neural Networks and their applications in Python and other open source libraries.
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring
Prerequisite(s): MSCA 31008: Data Mining or MSCA 31009: Machine Learning

MSCA 37013. Ethics In Big Data Analytics. 000 Units.
Big data and analytics methodology are enormously beneficial to individuals, corporations, human services organizations, and government. Big data has dramatically improved how we address critically important global challenges, climate change and disease prevention. It has influenced our political life and generated enormous corporate profit. However, the use of huge datasets and data analytical methods raises an array of challenging ethical questions, including: How who owns big data? Are there implications to its sale or transfer? Are there limits to its commercial and public policy use? Is the right of an individual to privacy a thing of the past? Are algorithms inherently biased? Who or what is liable when machines make decisions? In “Ethics in Big Data Analytics” we first explore the impact of data analytics on society and corporations/organizations to establish a framework for understanding ethical challenges. We then investigate ethical issues associated with data collection, storage, transfer/sale, analysis, and visualization. We study bias in algorithms, machine learning, and artificial intelligence. By the conclusion of this short course, students should be able (a) to explain why ethics is important to their work as data analysts/data scientists; (b) to express verbally and in writing the import of a specific ethical challenge a corporation or organization might confront; and (c) construct and present an argument related to how big data should or should not be used in this situation.

MSCA 37014. Python for Analytics. 000 Units.
This course in python starts with an introduction to the python programming language basic syntax and environment. It methodically builds up the learner’s experience from the level of simple python statements and expressions to writing succinct, efficient and fast Python expressions and package the code in methods and classes. In general, the course is geared toward developing a data science’s toolbox such as data importing, cleaning and preparation and covers a number of machine learning algorithms. However the course expands beyond these skills as it stresses upon the importance of some of Python’s most unique and powerful features and serves as an introduction to object oriented programming and Python Classes.

MSCA 37015. Introduction to Ethics in Data Analytics. 000 Units.
This 3-hour course is an introduction to ethical issues surrounding data analytics, machine learning, and artificial intelligence. As a stand-alone offering, the course has no formal syllabus outlining weekly topics, reading, and assignments. The goal of the course is to offer students a workable, introductory understanding of current ethical challenges they will face in their careers as data science professionals. Ethical and policy-related concepts the course explore include the notion of privacy; data, discrimination, and disparate impact; and algorithmic bias. The course also presents a rudimentary overview of the current regulatory environment in the United States and European Union. Finally, the course introduce students to methods of ethical argument. Understanding these methods will help students communicate a point of view on the ethics of decisions that may be consequential to a business’s success. This is a pass/fail course with no advanced reading or assignments. However, the instructor will provide students with a bibliography of materials at the conclusion of the course.
Terms Offered: TBD

MSCA 37016. Advanced Linear Algebra for Machine Learning. 000 Units.
An advanced linear algebra course focused on the theoretical foundations and applications of linear algebra for machine learning. Upon completion of this course, students will be provided a strong foundation of theoretical linear algebra and linear analysis topics essential for the development of core machine learning and data mining concepts. In addition, various real-life applications of linear algebra for data analytics will be demonstrated. Instructor(s): Shaddy Abado, Lian Huan Ng, Arnab Bose Terms Offered: Autumn Spring
Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Undergraduate level coursework in Linear Algebra. Successful completion of the Advanced Linear Algebra for Machine Learning pretest exam with a passing grade, or,
successful completion of online Coursera course as outlined and recommended by MSCA program. MSCA & MSAP Students Only.

**MSCA 37017. Advanced Research. 000 Units.**
This course will focus on professional development needs of the data scientist as they work to advance in their career through this masters program. The core areas of research will focus in on how to discover your personal strengths and passions, explore the broad array of jobs that data scientists advance through, and also focus on the companies that may be the best fit for the next stages of each student's career. The focus developed through this research will help prepare the student for the data science marketplace, present themselves confidently, and accelerate the students professional successful career search process.
Instructor(s): Gregory Green Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Restricted to MSCA and MSAP students only.

**MSCA 37018. Next Chapter: Prospections on Hot Topics in Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence. 000 Units.**
This 5-week course is designed to help data analytics specialists to stay on top of the most influential developments in the areas of Data Science, Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence. It covers the newest topics appearing in the curriculum of MScA at University of Chicago as well as foresights of invited leading industry specialists about main trends in the field of analytics. The students attend the course remotely. Activities include live presentations, workshops, individual and group projects and prerecorded videos for asynchronous learning. Upon completion of the course students receive a document certifying completion.
Instructor(s): Yuri Balasanov Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Required Prerequisites: MSCA 31009: Machine Learning & Predictive Analytics Recommended: MSCA 31013: Big Data Platforms; MSCA 32017: Advanced Machine Learning & Artificial Intelligence Restricted to MSCA and MSAP students only.

**MSCA 37019. Your Career in Data Science. 000 Units.**
This course will help you navigate your career in data science and land a job that fits your needs and desires. It starts with taking a deeper discovery into who you are, clarifying what you want to do with your career, and navigating the market to find the right company and job match.
Instructor(s): Jennifer Schmidt, Gregory Green Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter. Winter, Spring, Autumn 2021, Spring 2022
Prerequisite(s): Restricted to MSCA & MSAP students, and MScA Alumni Scholars only.

**MSCA 40100. Analytics Practicum. 000 Units.**
Analytics Practicum is part of the co-operative educational agreement between MScA program and employers that provides off-campus work authorization for international students to pursue internships. The internships must meet the requirement that students archive at least five learning objectives of the course. The learning objectives are about students developing or sharpening their skills in applying analytical tools to solve real life problems.
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Summer Winter