UCLA | Fielding School of Public Health
Master of Data Science in Health

MDSH Student Handbook

2025-2026

Training Next-Generation Health Data Scientists

https://mdsh.ucla.edu

Contents

Welcome Message

Welcome to the Master of Data Science in Health (MDSH) program at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. We are delighted that you're committed to a graduate, professional degree at the intersection of data science and health.

The health sciences are experiencing rapid growth in data-intensive research, fueled by advances in high-performance computing, statistical methods, and programming tools. These technological shifts have generated massive health databases accessible to researchers, administrators, and policymakers.

This data deluge ("BIG DATA") brings both opportunities and challenges. Skilled data scientists are needed to transform these vast datasets into insights that drive scientific discovery, shape health policy, and improve care.

In this era of big data technologies, massive electronically stored digital databases carry information on a variety of health-related issues. Statistical modeling and analysis of such data will provide invaluable insights into the various processes and attributes of such data with the potential to generate new scientific discoveries, shape new health policies, and develop new practices to improve our quality of life. As these databases become increasingly accessible to data scientists, the demand for individuals with the skills to harness emerging technologies and statistical methods to tap into these treasure troves is soaring in hospitals, universities, research organizations, and the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, among others.

The Master of Data Science in Health (MDSH) program is tailored to meet the demands of the dynamic and complex health industry by preparing you to be leaders in the field of health data science. The program appeals to professionals enhancing their data skills and recent graduates launching careers in this expanding field. Each course incorporates massive data sets you will work with to develop skills in data engineering, data visualization, mining and exploring of data, machine learning methods, statistical design of research studies and practical problem solving. The academic experience culminates in a Capstone project in which student teams are paired with leading industry partners to solve real-world business and public/health problems.

Our graduates go on to become research data analysts, data scientists, statistical programmers, biostatisticians, and machine learning engineers in hospitals and health systems, public health agencies, biotech and pharma, banks, tech companies, and digital health startups—leading initiatives that improve patient outcomes, accelerate research, and shape data-driven policy—and some continue into PhD programs across diverse fields such as cognitive science, computer science, epidemiology, finance, public health, and primary health care.

Beyond academics, the MDSH program equips you for career success through professional development workshops, industry expert panels, networking opportunities, and dedicated student support. Should you have any questions, please reach out to our team at mdsh@ucla.edu. We are here to support you and help ensure your success throughout this program.

Sudipto Banerjee, PhD
Senior Associate Dean for Academic Programs
Professor of Biostatistics, Statistics & Data Science
UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

Hua Zhou, PhD
Director, Master of Data Science in Health (MDSH) Program
Professor of Biostatistics and Computational Medicine
UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

New Admit Checklist

Know your:
- UID (9-digit University ID found on your acceptance letter/on your BruinCard)
- UCLA official email address (we highly recommend using your @ucla.edu email)
- UCLA Lived and Legal names
- Single Sign On (SSO) credentials

To be ready for the academic year, complete each of these steps <u>before</u> orientation:

Course Enrollment
- ☐ Enroll in Biostat 201A Lec 80 and Biostat 203A Lec 80. See steps below on how to enroll.

Check Holds on MyUCLA
- ☐ Holds (restrictions place on a student's record) prevent students from accessing services at UCLA. Please check your account here to see if you have any holds. The most common types of holds are transcript holds (see how to clear here) and immunization holds (see how to clear here).

Technology:
- ☐ **Laptop requirements:** ensure your laptop meets minimum program requirements
- ☐ Single Sign On (SSO) and Multi-factor Authentication (MFA): set up here to access UCLA software and systems
- ☐ **Software:** install Zoom, Adobe Reader or Acrobat, and Microsoft365 on your laptop, consider intalling Zoom on your mobile device. These software are available to UCLA students free of charge.

Identification:
- ☐ **BruinCard**: Submit your photo for your BruinCard **by August 31st** at https://bruincard.ucla.edu/submit-photo. BruinCards will be handed out at Orientation.
- ☐ **Bruin Safe Online**: Install the app on your smartphone

Communication:
- ☐ **Slack**: Join UCLA Campus Community and UCLA Fielding School of Public Health Slack workspaces

Below, are <u>optional</u> and/or applicable steps to complete:

International Students (If applicable):
- ☐ **Dashew Center:** All international students should thoroughly review information related to I-20s, international travel as a grad student on an F-1 visa, OPT and CPT on the Dashew Center website. See Dashew Center information below.

Social Media (Optional):
- ☐ **Social Media:** Follow MDSH Social Media – Connect with MDSH on LinkedIn and follow the MDSH Instagram (@uclamdsh) and X (formerly Twitter @uclamdsh)

Career Development (Optional):
- ☐ **Career Development:** Familiarize yourself with the CPDO website, sign up for Handshake, and CPDO course offered on BruinLearn

Program Location, Website, Administration

Master of Data Science in Health (MDSH) Offices
Room 2353, UCLA Life Sciences Building
621 Charles E Young Dr S, Los Angeles, CA 90095

Website: https://mdsh.ucla.edu/
Email: mdsh@ucla.edu
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/uclamdsh/
Instagram: @uclamdsh
X (formerly Twitter): @uclamdsh

Hua Zhou, PhD
MDSH Director
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MDSH Student Affairs Officer
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Mia Giordano, MPH, MA
MDSH Project Coordinator
Email: mgiordano@ph.ucla.edu

Communication

MDSH Email
Please make sure you pay attention to emails from mdsh@ucla.edu and celdridge@ph.ucla.edu (SAO).
Please allow up to two business days for replies. Complicated requests may require additional time.

MDSH Slack Channels
Along with email, Slack is a critical tool for program communication. Please follow these steps to join Slack prior to orientation:
- Join the "UCLA Campus Community" and "UCLA Jonathan & Karin Fielding School of Public Health" slack workspaces using your UCLA associated email at this link: ucla.slack.com
- Find your display name and change if desired (in bold next to your profile picture)
- If you were not added to the MDSH Slack Channel after filling out the Incoming Student Survey, please reach out to mdsh@ucla.edu

Important Websites
- MDSH: mdsh.ucla.edu
- MyUCLA: my.ucla.edu
- BruinLearn: https://bruinlearn.ucla.edu/courses/288
- Create IT ticket: https://ucla.service-now.com/ or call (310) 267-4357 (HELP) if you have any difficulty with the software requirements below

UCLA Systems and Software

Software for Classwork
MDSH courses use a variety of statistical software programs (SAS, R/RStudio, Python), for which the instructors will show basic instructions for access and usage. There is no additional cost for accessing these programs.

Logging into UCLA Systems: Single Sign On (SSO) and Multi-factor Authentication (MFA)
Many UCLA programs require that you use Single Sign-On and Multi-factor Authentication. To set this up, visit: https://ociso.ucla.edu/services/multi-factor-authentication-mfa

Bruin Learn (Canvas)
Bruin Learn provides students and faculty a single workspace that integrates information, resources, and outputs. You will access course content (syllabi, lecture slides, course readings, assignments, etc.) through each course's collaboration site. Please remember to save all your files/materials at the end of each quarter, as each course will regenerate every year and you will no longer have access to previous course material.
https://bruinlearn.ucla.edu/courses/288

Zoom
The MDSH program conducts classes and events both in person and remotely. Zoom will be utilized for remote sessions. Please follow the directions below or click here for directions with images to activate your free account:

- Log In to create a UCLA Zoom account.
- Download Zoom for your computer. Note, you may also want to download on your mobile device.
  - In the Zoom App, Choose the "Sign In With SSO" button
  - Type "ucla" as the company domain
  - Displayed name should match your name on your Bruincard
    - Ex. Joe Bruin (He/Him)

Microsoft Office 365
You are responsible for having the most up-to-date versions of Microsoft Office. UCLA Bruin Online (BOL) offers Microsoft Office 365 to active UCLA students at no charge. Students will also be able to access their Microsoft files online. To register, students need to create a Microsoft Office 365 account:
https://career.ucla.edu/blog/2023/10/09/student-access-to-microsoft-office-365-education/

Adobe Reader and Adobe Creative Cloud
You are responsible for having Adobe Reader. UCLA Bruin Online (BOL) also offers students free access to Adobe Creative Cloud, which allows you access to Acrobat Pro, Photoshop Pro, and many other applications. For more information and instructions to access, visit: https://ucla.service-now.com/support?id=kb_article&sys_id=KB0013458

UCLA Box
Cloud storage is provided to all students via Box. For more information on accessing your UCLA Box account, visit https://dts.ucla.edu/products-services/collaboration-tools/box/individual-box-accounts

Hardware Requirements, Online Access and Training

Laptop Requirements and Hardware

Students are required to have their own laptop. To ensure you are able to complete the work required and run the programs needed, computers with a minimum of 16GB RAM and 1 TB hard disk suffice for the MDSH coursework. See Student Discounts below regarding purchasing a laptop at ASUCLA.

Gaining Remote UCLA Access

To learn more about gaining remote UCLA access and creating a Virtual Private Network (VPN), please visit https://it.ucla.edu/it-support-center/services/virtual-private-network-vpn-clients.

Campus WIFI

There are different ways to get internet on campus. For information on Wireless Access points and how to connect to the internet, visit: https://dts.ucla.edu/products-services/wireless-network-access

During in-person classes and while in the CHS building, we recommend connecting to the wireless network, "eduroam."

- Select "eduroam" from the list of available wireless networks
- You will be prompted to enter your username and password.
- Username is your full BOL email address (i.e. joebruin@ucla.edu). Simply typing "joebruin" will not let you connect.
- Password is your BOL password.

If "eduroam" gives you a hard time, FSPH also has a "medguest" WIFI, which will take you to a secure single sign-on webpage. You will sign in using your BOL username and password.

Training on computers, mobile devices and most software

The following resources are available as needed to familiarize yourself with the software and hardware environment:

- Campus Library Instructional Computing Commons (CLICC) – equipment lending and physical space https://www.library.ucla.edu/about/programs/campus-library-instructional-computing-commons-clicc/
- IT Services Knowledge Base has a repository of help articles related to account access, applications, etc. https://ucla.service-now.com/support?id=kb_view
- UCLA Digital Toolkit provides links to resources, hardware/software information and tools to facilitator learning and collaboration https://dts.ucla.edu/students

Program Logistics and Expectations

Degree requirements

Students will start the program together and move through each quarter as a cohort. The MDSH degree program requires 12 4-unit MDSH courses, including one capstone project. It takes a minimum of 20 months (6 academic quarters) to complete.

Required courses are:
- Public Health C201
- Biostatistics 203A, 203B, 203C, 201A, 212A, 212B, and 401.
- 16 units from the following MDSH program electives: Biostatistics 213-218, 230-241, 273-280, 285, and 410-414.
- Students who have a degree from a CEPH-accredited public health school or program can apply to waive out of Public Health C201 but must take an additional elective from the program's approved list to reach the 48 units required for the program. Students who wish to waive Public Health C201 must reach out to mdsh@ucla.edu.

Only courses in which a grade of C or better is received may be applied toward the requirements for a master's degree. **Courses taken for S/U (Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory) grading may <u>not</u> be applied toward the degree requirements.** Students must maintain an overall average of no less than 3.0 (B) in all courses required or elected during their graduate education at the University of California.

Academic Calendar and Course Schedule
The Academic Calendar is subject to change, please visit https://mdsh.ucla.edu/students/calendar/ for the most updated version. The Course Schedule can be found here: https://mdsh.ucla.edu/students/schedule/

UCLA MDSH Academic Calendar *dates subject to change | 2025 to 2026

Fall Quarter: Sept 22 - Dec 12   Winter Quarter: Jan 2 - March 20   Spring Quarter: March 25 - June 12

Important dates

Program Orientation Day September 26, 2025 (first year students only)

MDSH Summit June 5, 2026

Weekday Evening Sessions (online)   Elective Weekday Evening Sessions (online, second year students only)

Weekend Sessions (in-person)

Fall Weekend 1: Sept 27-28	Winter Weekend 1: Jan 10-11	Spring Weekend 1: April 4-5
Fall Weekend 2: Oct 25-26	Winter Weekend 2: Feb 7-8	Spring Weekend 2: May 2-3
Fall Weekend 3: Nov 22-23	Winter Weekend 3: March 7-8	Spring Weekend 3: June 6-7

Course Workload and Classroom Expectations

On average, taking the required two MDSH courses per quarter, students spend 16 hours on course preparation and assignments and 8 hours of lecture per week. Each instructor will thoroughly explain course objectives and requirements. Students are expected to conform to the UCLA culture and guidelines to create a positive learning environment, including:

- Completing all reading, preparation, and assignments in a comprehensive and thorough manner prior to class
- Reviewing and complying with assignment instructions
- Submitting assignments on time
- Actively participating and engaging during class discussion and group assignments
- Attending all class sessions (in-person and online)
- Collaborating with fellow students
- Respecting instructors and fellow students

Communication Standards/Expectations

Students are expected to regularly check email and Slack for MDSH communications including weekend reminders and program updates. A few days before each in-person class weekend, an email will be sent with classroom assignments, details about the lunch being provided that weekend, and other reminders and announcements.

Academic Integrity

With its status as a world-class educational and research institution, it is critical that the University uphold the highest standards of integrity both inside and outside the classroom. As a student and member of the UCLA community, you are expected to demonstrate integrity in all of your academic endeavors. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, multiple submissions, or facilitating academic misconduct. Visit www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Academic-Integrity and familiarize yourself with UCLA's policies and expectations of academic integrity.

With the new rise in AI tools and their applications to academic assignments, the University has released guidance and resources related to the use of AI: https://genai.ucla.edu/

Please refer to your course syllabi at the start of each quarter, as each faculty member is responsible for curating their own policy regarding the use of AI tools. If there is no policy clearly stated, be sure to cite any writing you pull from an AI tool website. For tips on how to cite your sources properly, visit https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines.

For additional tips on how to avoid plagiarism, visit https://registrar.ucla.edu/registration-classes/enrollment-policies/class-policies/plagiarism-and-student-copyright.

Code of Conduct

Students, faculty and staff at UCLA are expected to adhere to all applicable laws relevant to non-discrimination, sexual or gender harassment, academic honesty, etc. Please view the Student Code of Conduct https://studentconduct.ucla.edu/individual-student-code

Standard of Scholarship

UCLA requires at least a B (3.0) grade point average for all graduate courses to be applied toward advanced degrees. A student is considered in probationary status and subject to dismissal if the cumulative coursework GPA falls below a 3.0 or if the student's work in any two consecutive terms falls below a 3.0 average. If allowed to continue in probationary status, the student is required to make expeditious progress toward improvement in scholarship through development of an academic progress contract supported by the student's Academic Advisor. The Associate Dean of Student Affairs must then support a student's appeal to continue graduate study.

Incompletes

The instructor assigns the grade "I" when a student's work is of passing quality but is incomplete for good cause. A student may remove the "I" and receive unit credit and grade points by satisfactorily completing the course work consistent with a plan specified with the instructor. If the work is not completed by the end of the next quarter of residence, the "I" grade will automatically be replaced with the failing grade of "F". If an "I" grade has lapsed to an "F," the student may be able to complete the course in a subsequent quarter with the permission of the instructor and receive the appropriately earned grade assigned. Until that time, the "F" grade appears on the record and 1.0 is calculated in the grade point average. For detailed information, please refer to the Standards and Procedures for Graduate Study: https://grad.ucla.edu/academics/

Dropping / Waiving a class

MDSH is a cohort program and as such, classes are fixed (see Degree Requirements above). In the event that a student anticipates the need to drop a course, the student must first discuss with the SAO and Program Director by emailing mdsh@ucla.edu. If a student intends to waive a course due to previously taking the same course as an undergraduate student at UCLA or intends to waive Public Health C201, the student must email mdsh@ucla.edu before fall quarter of the second year.

Program Concerns and Evaluations

The MDSH team values your input and is committed to continuous improvement. Each quarter, students are expected to participate in surveys (15–25 minutes) to share feedback on courses and programming. You may also email mdsh@ucla.edu anytime with questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Class Weekends and Expectations

Attendance

Attendance at every in-person class weekend and weekday Zoom lecture is mandatory. In the rare occasion that an absence is unavoidable, you are expected **to reach out to your instructors and TAs** in a timely manner to inform them, inquire about making up classwork, and how this may affect your grade.

Classrooms

All MDSH in-person classes will be held in lecture halls within the Center for Health Sciences (CHS) building. Classroom assignments can be found on the class schedule (subject to change). Updates on the specific classrooms will be provided prior to the weekend sessions via email.

Refreshments

There is a rolling cart placed in/outside of MDSH classrooms, designated for the MDSH cohort, equipped with a basic coffee and tea, snacks, and supplies. During Orientation, you will be given a MDSH reusable tumbler. Using your MDSH tumbler helps us reduce single-use waste. Note that the program only provides plates, cups, utensils, etc. for meals provided by the program.

Meals

Lunch will be provided once each class weekend either on Saturday or Sunday. Students are responsible for other meals and may bring their own food and drinks (microwaves and vending machines are available on the first floor of CHS just outside the D Elevators) or purchase from a local eatery. In most eateries on campus, if you show your BruinCard, you will not have to pay sales tax. See "Campus Services & Resources" section below for restaurant and convenience store options. Note that some campus restaurants are closed on weekends.

Graduate Reading Room

The Graduate Reading Room is a 24-hour study space for graduate students in the Schools of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing and Public Health, as well as in the life sciences division of the College. The Graduate Reading Room is accessible from the 8th stack level of the Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library during regular hours. Eligible users may access the reading room after hours via BruinCard swipe at CHS 32-001 (right around the corner from CHS 33-105, a classroom often used for MDSH weekend classes). Hours can be found here. Other study spaces can be found around campus, including UCLA's various libraries.

Enrollment, Registration, and Tuition

Admission, Registration & Enrollment

Each applicant admitted to a graduate program at UCLA receives an online official offer letter of admission containing their UCLA ID (UID) number, a link to the online Statement of Intention to Register (SIR), and a Statement of Legal Residence.

Once these are submitted online, the admitted applicant is entered in the Registrar's database through MyUCLA. If a final transcript, degree diploma, or other documentation confirming the undergraduate degree was requested on the checklist accompanying the admission letter, it must be delivered to the Fielding School of Public Health Student Affairs Office through email (admissions@ph.ucla.edu) (preferred) or via mail (see below) as soon as possible to ensure continuing registration and enrollment as a graduate student at UCLA.

> UCLA Fielding School of Public Health c/o Michelle Garcia
> 650 Charles E. Young Drive S., Room 16-068
> Los Angeles, CA 90095

Registration consists of paying fees and enrolling in classes. Registration fees and other University charges are paid through BruinBill. BruinBill is an electronic bill (eBill) that students can view in MyUCLA. After enrollment is processed, study lists (enrolled courses) may be viewed in MyUCLA.

Enrollment times determine when you can enroll in classes for the *next* quarter. You can find your enrollment appointment on your Study List page. Reminders to enroll will also be sent out via email once

enrollment appointments open, however, **it is your responsibility to ensure you enroll in classes in a timely manner.** Delaying enrollment can cause you to miss important class announcements, receive additional enrollment restrictions, and result in additional fees.

Steps to enroll in a class:
- Log in to MyUCLA https://my.ucla.edu/
- Select "Classes," then under "Plan and Enroll," select "Class Planner"
- From this screen, under the search, put in "Biostatistics" for "Enter Subject Area." You should be able to select your class in the box below.
- Click the white box under Select the Lecture (80 and 82 are used for all MDSH classes), then add class to plan.
- Click the pencil under "Change," and select "Enroll" (on the right side).
- Make sure your default grading scheme is **Letter Grading (LG)** for courses. Courses taken with S/U (Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory) grading will **NOT** count towards course requirements.

Graduate students must be either registered and enrolled or on an official leave of absence every term until their degrees are awarded. As an exception, certain graduate students may be eligible to pay the filing fee. Failure to register or be on an official leave of absence for any term constitutes withdrawal from UCLA. Students who wish to discuss a leave of absence or filing fee need to email the MDSH program at mdsh@ucla.edu for more information.

MyUCLA
MyUCLA gives UCLA students, and those who have been students within the past 10 years, real-time access to their university academic, personal, and financial records. Access is based on students' UCLA username/password.

Contact Information
Any changes to your personal contact information (i.e. primary email address, mailing address, phone number) must be changed through MyUCLA. This method will update your information university-wide. You must also notify the MDSH program separately at mdsh@ucla.edu.

Note: Your name will appear on your diploma as your lived name on MyUCLA, please ensure this information is accurate by January 1st of the year you will graduate.

Tuition/Paying Registration Fees
For the Class of 2026 and 2027, MDSH tuition is $1,250 per unit, or $30,000 for each academic year. Tuition covers the cost of registration and enrollment. Tuition can be paid in three payments during each academic year. Students may review their BruinBill account at any time through MyUCLA and make payments by University deadlines. These online payments may include BruinPay Plan, eCheck, MasterCard, Discover or American Express (with a 2.75% base transaction). Payments by cash can only be made in-person at the Administrative Main Cashier Office (1125 Murphy Hall) at their customer service windows.

BruinPay Plan (BPP)
Eligible students can enroll in BruinPay Plan (BPP) to pay their term fees in three monthly installments. Enrollment deadlines and more information about BPP can be found here.

BruinBill

UCLA uses a readily accessible financial system, known as BruinBill, to assist students in managing their account and to generate fellowship stipend, loan, and other need- and merit-based aid payments. The University records all billing (such as tuition, non-resident supplemental tuition, and Student Health Services charges) and all UCLA aid payments through the BruinBill system. Each month, students need to review transactions posted to their BruinBill account using MyUCLA.

With BruinBill, aid funds (including Academic Student Employee (ASE) and Graduate Student Research (GSR) fee remissions, fellowships, training grant payments, loans, and other awards) will automatically apply towards the payment of fee and tuition bills. For students who have a fellowship package from their department or the Graduate Division that fully covers fees and tuition, these charges will be automatically paid through BruinBill. Any remaining funds after bills have been paid will be disbursed as a credit refund through BruinDirect.

BruinDirect: Electronic Deposit of Funds

We highly recommend you sign up for BruinDirect to assure you receive any refund owed to you as quickly as possible. Sign up for BruinDirect through MyUCLA:
1. Go to my.ucla.edu
2. Sign in and click on BruinBill (under the Finances and Jobs section)
3. Click "Continue to BruinBill"
4. Click on the link at the bottom of the page that reads "Sign up for My BruinDirect"

Students who have not signed up for BruinDirect will have all refund checks mailed to them and will likely experience a delay of several days in receiving their checks.

Financial Support

Scholarships and fellowships are also extremely limited this year due to the current federal administration's restrictions on funding. Review this page for possible employment opportunities on-campus.

Financial Aid

Students may qualify for federal student loans by completing the FAFSA, which is available on the UCLA Financial Aid website. Applications are accepted even after the deadline. Financial aid notices are issued mid-July and continue throughout the academic year. Funding based on financial need is available to U.S. citizens and permanent residents and includes loans and work-study awards. Ensure all required documents are submitted before the start of the quarter. Aid is disbursed about a week before the first class weekend.

MDSH Scholarships

The MDSH Program offers annual scholarships equivalent to $5000 per quarter in tuition to MDSH students based on merit, diversity, need, and community engagement. Applications will become available during the Spring quarter for the following academic year. First year students not already awarded a scholarship may apply for a scholarship for their second year. The scholarship is paid in the form of tuition credit in BruinBill, distributed equally each quarter.

On-campus Employment

You can sign up for the ASE/GSR marketplace HERE to look for and apply to positions once Fall quarter of your first year begins. If you do receive a TA or GSR offer, you must inform the MDSH program office at mdsh@ucla.edu. Please note these positions are extremely limited, and are generally held by second year students.

Sallie Mae Graduate School Scholarship Tool

Sallie Mae has a tool to help find scholarships for graduate school at https://www.salliemae.com/scholarships/types/graduate-students/.

Academic & Professional Advising and Resources

For general questions about enrollment, tuition, and the MDSH program, please reach out to mdsh@ucla.edu.

Academic Advisor

Students will be assigned an academic advisor who is a faculty member of the Department of Biostatistics. Faculty advisors serve to help you develop and update an individualized plan of study, interpret program requirements and policies, monitor progress toward degree completion, recommend electives aligned with your goals, and connect you with research, capstone, internship, and campus resources. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic advisor quarterly. In addition to your formal academic advisor, faculty may be willing to serve as informal advisors and are excellent resources for career and competency development.

Professional Advising and Resources

The MDSH program sends out campus, university-wide, and industry opportunities often. Students should regularly monitor email and Slack to take advantage of the many professional development, internship, and job opportunities.

The UCLA Career Center provides information and resources for master's students on their website: https://career.ucla.edu/channels/masters-students/

You are highly encouraged to access the FSPH Career and Professional Development Office (CPDO) website and services. CPDO has a wealth of online and in-person resources. Please familiarize yourself with their website: https://ph.ucla.edu/students/student-career-professional-development

Log in to the self-serve modules for CPDO trainings on BruinLearn to access recorded workshops and materials. Training topics include career planning, skill analysis, job search, interview resources, application materials, salary negotiation and more. The BruinLearn page can be accessed here: https://bruinlearn.ucla.edu/enroll/YEPYHE

Sign up for the CPDO Slack channel and UCLA Handshake app for information about jobs, internships, GSR/TA opportunities, and workshops. Slack: https://ucla-ph.slack.com/ Handshake: https://ucla.joinhandshake.com/login

Letters of Recommendation

As you plan for your future career, you may need letters of recommendation. Faculty members can be a valuable resource for this.

To write a strong letter, a faculty member needs to know your skills, interests, and goals, as shown through your participation in class and your engagement with the course. Building relationships with your faculty instructors, academic advisors and program director will give them better insight into your strengths and professional development.

Please allow at least one month for them to prepare a well-written letter on your behalf.

Professional Societies

We highly encourage students to take advantage of student membership in professional societies. They offer student membership at very low prices or even free. Membership offers free subscriptions to journals and substantial discounts to attend conferences, which are great venues for extending your professional network.

- **American Statistical Association (ASA)** When joining ASA, you can choose one or more local chapters, so you don't miss any local events including career fairs. Many students use the Joint Statistical Meeting (JSM) career services to find jobs. Student membership $30.
- **American Public Health Association (APHA)** serves as a convenor, catalyst and advocate to build capacity in the public health community. Student membership $90.
- **Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS)** is an international organization representing wide-ranging interests in statistical research. Student membership is free.
- **International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA)** holds a special JSM (Joint Statistical Meeting) partnership. Student membership is free.

Campus Services & Resources

BruinCard

BruinCard is a multi-purpose card that serves as your official UCLA student ID, library card, and entry key into the Fielding School of Public Health during class weekends. It can also be used as a pre-paid debit card for purchases on and off campus. All MDSH students are required to have a BruinCard (see New Admit Checklist above). If you lose your BruinCard you can make an appointment to receive a new one here or visit the BruinCard office during drop-in hours (appointments are encouraged). If you are having trouble accessing the Fielding School of Public Health or Graduate Reading Room with your BruinCard, please email mdsh@ucla.edu.

Dashew Center for International Students & Scholars

The Dashew Center functions as the central hub to provide international students, scholars, and their departments with visa services, resources, support and advocacy on campus. The Dashew Center aims to serve the entire UCLA community by promoting the values of creating global connection, international understanding and cultural sensitivity. **If you ever have any questions regarding: I-20s, international travel as a grad student on an F-1 visa, OPT and CPT, please contact the Dashew Center.**
https://internationalcenter.ucla.edu/

Equipment Lending
The [Campus Library Instructional Computing Commons (CLICC)](#) lends technology equipment from library locations across campus to support learning and research for UCLA students, staff and faculty. A physical BruinCard is required for all CLICC equipment loans.
https://www.library.ucla.edu/help/services-resources/equipment-lending

First To Go
First To Go promotes campus involvement and visibility with a focus on the retention and success of all first-generation college students at UCLA. The office serves as a resource hub to assist current UCLA undergraduate and graduate students as they navigate the campus and provide support in building community.
A "first-generation college student" is a student whose parent(s)/guardian(s) have not received a four-year U.S. bachelor's degree. International students whose parent(s)/guardian(s) have not received a four-year U.S. bachelor's degree are considered "first-generation college students."
https://firsttogo.ucla.edu/

FSPH Student Organizations
Student groups at FSPH provide students with the opportunity to get involved in topical and campus activities and events, meet peers with similar interests and have fun. We particularly encourage your participation in the Biostatistics Student Association (BSA). Each year one to two students serve as MDSH-representatives to BSA. If interested, please email mdsh@ucla.edu.
https://ph.ucla.edu/students/student-organizations

Graduate Student Resource Center
The UCLA Graduate Student Resource Center, located in the Student Activities Center, is a one-stop resource, referral, and information center for graduate students. It offers programs and workshops, drop-in counseling, a web and in-house resource library, meeting and study space, and the opportunity for social interaction. More information can be found at http://www.gsrc.ucla.edu.

Libraries
As one of the top five research libraries in North America, the UCLA campus-wide network of libraries serves programs of study and research in many fields. With more than eight million volumes and nearly 80,000 magazines and academic journals, the library has world-class collections of contemporary works as well as rare books and manuscripts. The UCLA Library system comprises the Charles E. Young Research Library, the College Library, and eight specialized subject libraries. The BruinCard serves as the library card for UCLA students, faculty, and staff. Users will need to have their account activated the first time they attempt to check out materials; this can be done at the circulation desk in any campus library. UCLA Library also offers a variety of workshops and webinars, learn more:
https://www.library.ucla.edu/

Ombuds Services
The mission of the Office of Ombuds Services is to ensure that all members of the University community receive confidential, fair, and equitable treatment in matters of concern or complaint. The Ombuds persons facilitate communication when conflict arises and provide the opportunity for informal dispute resolution.
https://www.ombuds.ucla.edu/

Restaurants and Convenience Stores

Campus Locations: https://www.asucla.ucla.edu/locations (South and Central campus are closest) and hours https://www.asucla.ucla.edu/hours

- **Ackerman Student Union** has restaurants and a large convenience store that sells drinks, snacks and microwaveable meals. There are microwaves and utensils available. Open 7-days, check link for specific restaurants.
- **Café Synapse**, located directly across Charles E Young Drive in the Gonda Center, offers coffee specials, salads, pizzas, healthy grain bowls, and specialty sandwiches M-F from 7am-3pm
- **Café Med**, located on the first floor of CHS, Court of Sciences, offers sushi, sandwiches, a salad bar, and the grill with hours M-F from 7am-2pm
- **Health Sciences Bookstore** located near the cafeteria in the central courtyard of the Center for Health Sciences sells drinks, snacks, and microwaveable meals. M-F 8am-6pm, Sat. 11am-3pm.

The Westwood neighborhood (off campus) has a large number of dining options open for a wider range of hours and on weekends. The closest option is Ralph's grocery store which has a full deli and prepared food options.

Student Discounts

The Central Ticket Office (CTO), (310) 825-2101, sells tickets for all campus athletic and entertainment events. In order to obtain discounts for which students are eligible, you must present your BruinCard at the time of purchase so that your status may be validated. CTO also sells bus passes and tickets to movies and other off-campus athletic, cultural, and entertainment events. You can also purchase discount tickets for various Southern California attractions, such as Universal Studios, Disneyland, and Magic Mountain. In addition, most Westwood Village merchants and local movie theaters offer student discounts. https://tickets.ucla.edu/

For those seeking to purchase personal computers and software, the ASUCLA Computer Store offers educational discounts on computers, equipment, and name-brand software. Please visit www.uclastore.com for computing-related prices and information.

University Credit Union

This on-campus credit union offers free checking, on-campus ATMs, student loans, and computer & car loans. As a student, you are able to join the University Credit Union. It offers a variety of banking services, including low rates on student loans, car loans, and mortgages to their members. Once you belong to the Union, you are a member for life, regardless of your student status. https://www.ucu.org/Join/About-Us/University-Communities/UCLA

Health & Wellness

Ashe Center

The Arthur Ashe Student Health and Wellness Center is devoted to providing quality, accessible, state-of-the-art healthcare and education to support the unique development of UCLA students. Their comprehensive services include Primary Care, Gynecology Services, Immunizations, Travel Medicine, Physical Therapy, Specialty Clinics, Radiology & Laboratory, and Acupuncture. The Ashe Center also offers a

full-service optometry center, U See LA Optometry, on Ackerman B-Level and the Bruin Health Pharmacy on Ackerman A-Level. https://www.studenthealth.ucla.edu/

Center for Accessible Education (CAE)
Services are designed to meet the unique educational needs of regularly enrolled students with documented permanent and temporary disabilities. The philosophy and mission of the program are to encourage independence, assist students in realizing their academic potential, and facilitate the elimination of physical, programmatic, and attitudinal barriers. The CAE staff is available to assist students in successfully meeting educational challenges. A good introduction to the CAE, explaining how the CAE works and how to obtain services, is available in the CAE Student Handbook. For a copy, log on to the website https://cae.ucla.edu/.

Exercise and Recreation
MDSH Students can obtain a gym membership for free starting the first day of fall quarter. UCLA Recreation offers state-of-the-art fitness workouts, masters swim workouts, intramural and club sports, dozens of recreation classes, water sports at the Marina Aquatic Center, and open recreation at most campus facilities. Across from the Ackerman Student Union, you will find the Wooden Fitness Center. The BruinCard is required to enter the Center. This facility offers many different types of fitness and recreation classes, as well as various exercise machines and a full weight room. For information, contact Cultural and Recreational Affairs (310) 825-3701 or visit www.recreation.ucla.edu.

Mental Health Resources
UCLA has resources to help support you through challenging times. If you ever need someone to talk to and would prefer to speak with a professional, the UCLA Counseling & Psych Services team is more than equipped to be that someone for you. Visit: https://counseling.ucla.edu/.

For academic support, the UCLA Graduate Student Resource Center offers many resources for students, including writing and public speaking workshops. Visit: https://gsrc.ucla.edu/

The MDSH Administration is here to support you. If you ever need anything or don't know where to start, reach out to your SAO (mdsh@ucla.edu) who is more than happy to troubleshoot and connect you with campus resources.

Lodging

If you do not live in the LA area and will require lodging while attending in-person classes, the following options are located on campus or in Westwood.

UCLA Meyer and Renee Luskin Conference Center 425 Westwood Plaza Los Angeles, CA 90095 (855) 522-8252 https://luskinconferencecenter.ucla.edu/	UCLA Guest House 330 Charles E. Young Drive East, Los Angeles, CA 90095 (310) 825-2923 http://guesthouse.ucla.edu/	UCLA Tiverton House 900 Tiverton Ave Los Angeles, CA 90095 (310) 794-0151 https://www.uclahealth.org/tiverton/

Campus Safety

UCLA Bruins Safe Online

Bruins Safe is an essential tool to enhance your safety at UCLA. The app will send you important safety alerts and provide instant access to campus safety resources. BruinsSafe is the official mobile safety app of UCLA. We strongly encourage you to install the app on your smartphone. https://bso.ucla.edu/

Bruins Safe benefits include:

- Safety notifications: Receive instant notifications and instructions from campus safety when on-campus emergencies occur.
- Emergency help: Contact campus safety staff quickly for help in an emergency.
- Campus safety resources: Access all important safety resources in one convenient app.

To report an emergency, call 911. Non-emergency calls can be reported to the UCLA Police Department at (310) 825-1491 (https://police.ucla.edu/). The UCLA Police Department offers a variety of information on community outreach, crime prevention, and safety and security services.

Campus Escort Service

Campus Security Officers are available for a walking escort free of charge to students, faculty, staff, or visitors 365 days a year from dusk until 1 a.m. The campus escort services are provided between campus buildings, local living areas, and the Westwood Village within the approximate boundaries of Sunset Boulevard to the north, Hilgard Avenue to the east, Wilshire Boulevard to the south, and Veteran Avenue to the west. You may call the provided number for a campus escort. Please allow 15 to 20 minutes for your campus escort to arrive. https://police.ucla.edu/cso/evening-escorts or **(310) 794-WALK**

UCLA SafeRide

The UCLA SafeRide provides a safe means of transportation around campus during **evening hours Monday-Friday.** The vans provide transportation between campus buildings, on-campus housing, and nearby residential areas. The service is free for UCLA students, employees, and visitors. Route maps and link to downloadable app are available: https://transportation.ucla.edu/getting-around-campus/nighttime-safety-mobility

Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

The EDI team is comprised of several units. Collectively, these units are responsible for realizing EDI's mission to uphold dignity for all. For detailed information on offerings, visit: https://equity.ucla.edu/

Title IX/Sexual Harassment

Every member of the University community should be aware that the University will not tolerate sexual harassment and that such behavior is prohibited both by law and by university policy. The University will take whatever action is necessary to prevent and correct such behavior and, if appropriate, discipline persons whose behavior violates this policy. For more information on disciplinary actions, visit the website of the Dean of Students https://deanofstudents.ucla.edu/.

Any student who believes that they have been sexually harassed may contact a Sexual Harassment Information Center counselor for help and information. Complete details on contacting a counselor and a

link to the complete UC policy on sexual harassment are available on the Dean of Students' website. Scroll down to "Student Conduct" and then select "Responding to Reports of Sexual Harassment."

Emergency Situations and Emergency Preparedness
No one knows when an emergency will occur, so everyone should understand basic safety practices. Be prepared to respond safely to fire, earthquake, or other emergency situations. For more information visit Student Affairs Emergency Preparedness https://emergency.studentaffairs.ucla.edu/.

Parking & Transportation

Transportation
UCLA highly encourages use of public and alternate transportation. Please visit www.transportation.ucla.edu to learn more about alternate methods of getting to campus and for more info about public transportation to Westwood.

BruinBus
The BruinBus is a year-round bus serving the UCLA campus and Wilshire Center. The BruinBus complimentary campus service operates buses that are clean, wheelchair accessible, air-conditioned and environmentally conscious. For bus routes, schedules and stops visit:
https://transportation.ucla.edu/getting-around-campus/bruinbus

Bruin Grad Pass
Through their student fees, eligible UCLA graduate students have access to the Bruin Grad Pass program, which enables use of all local transit agencies and commuter lines serving campus. The Grad Pass gives unlimited access to all seven transit agencies serving the UCLA campus.
https://transportation.ucla.edu/getting-to-ucla/public-transit/bruin-grad-pass

Earn-A-Bike Program
The Earn-A-Bike program is designed to get eligible employees and graduate students to ride a bicycle to campus as a sustainable, economical, and healthy alternative to driving alone. By providing the option to swap a parking permit for a bike, the program will help support numerous UCLA initiatives and goals such as the Climate Action Plan, Sustainable Transportation Plan, and Healthy Campus Initiative's goal to make UCLA the "healthiest campus in America."
https://transportation.ucla.edu/getting-to-ucla/bike/earn-a-bike

Parking
Current and incoming UCLA graduate students are eligible for student parking. The closest parking lot is Parking Structure 8. You will need to purchase a daily permit online using the Bruin ePermit system. Students are responsible for parking costs during on-campus weekend sessions, seminars, and events. For more information, visit: https://www.transportation.ucla.edu/bruin-epermit-system.