



Statistics-Visiting International Student Program (Statistics-VISP)

Program Handbook

2023-2024

Department of Statistics

Reference this handbook to learn about the unique policies, requirements, procedures, resources, and norms for students in the Statistics-VISP program.

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Table of Contents

Preface.....	4
Who to Contact for Questions.....	4
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.....	4
Applying to Statistics-VISP.....	4
Admission Requirements.....	4
Onboarding.....	5
Housing.....	5
Advising and Mentoring.....	6
Office Hours.....	6
Statistics-VISP Program Requirements.....	7
Enrollment Requirements.....	7
Enrollment Deadlines.....	8
Other Enrollment Information.....	8
Stat 303-305 Waivers.....	8
Satisfactory Academic Progress.....	8
Academic Misconduct.....	9
Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.....	9
University of Wisconsin System (UWS).....	9
Non-Academic Misconduct.....	9
Office for Student Conduct and Community Standards.....	9
University of Wisconsin System (UWS).....	9
Research.....	10
Required Home Institution Curriculum.....	10
Apply to MSDS.....	10
Eligibility.....	10
Application Requirements.....	10
Admission Timeline.....	12
Academic Excellence Scholarship.....	12
MSDS Program Policies & Handbook.....	12
Transferring Coursework from VISP to MSDS.....	12
VISP to MSDS Enrollment Options.....	13
Option 1 – Full-time, 2 semesters.....	13
Option 2 – Full-time, 1 semester.....	13
Option 3 – Part-time, 2 semesters.....	13
Option 4 – Part-time, 1 semester.....	14
Summary of Program Options.....	14
Program Extension to Summer.....	14
Career Services for Statistics-VISP Students.....	15

International Students Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ).....	15
VISP/MSDS Policy FAQ.....	15

Preface

Welcome to the undergraduate, non-degree seeking Statistics-Visiting International Student Program (also known as “Statistics-VISP” or “Stats-VISP” for short). The [Department of Statistics](#) is committed to the training and education of its students. To facilitate this practice, we have created this document to help guide students through their education in the Statistics-VISP program. The policies of the program are overseen by the Statistics Department’s Statistics-Visiting International Student Program & MS Statistics: Statistics & Data Science Committee (VISP & MSDS Committee). Students are required to follow the procedures and processes listed in the current handbook. The information in this handbook should also be supplemented by individual consultation with the VISP & MSDS program coordinator so that all individual needs/interests and all requirements are met.

Who to Contact for Questions

Many of your questions about how to meet expectations and thrive as a Statistics-VISP student will be answered by the various sources of policies, procedures, requirements, and resources provided in this handbook. Students who have questions or concerns should contact the VISP & MSDS Program Coordinator, Jinda Moore (visp-msds@stat.wisc.edu), and the VISP & MSDS Program Chair, Jun Shao (shao@stat.wisc.edu).

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Department of Statistics strives to create a sense of belonging among all students, faculty, and staff. We foster an inclusive environment by treating other members of the department with esteem and respect. We honor diversity in our department and promote this sense of belonging by working together considerably towards our common goals of teaching, community engagement, and scientific innovation. We are dedicated to serving the [UW Madison statement on diversity](#) and are committed to creating an environment where all feel respected and included.

Students who need to report an incident, please view the [Graduate Guide Grievances and Appeals policies](#), or contact the program coordinator, Jinda Moore (jinda.moore@wisc.edu).

Applying to Statistics-VISP

Admission Requirements

To qualify for the Statistics-VISP program, students must meet the following admission requirements:

- Three semesters of calculus (UW-Madison equivalent: MATH 221 Calculus and Analytic Geometry I, MATH 222 Calculus and Analytic Geometry II, MATH 234 Calculus-Functions of Several Variables)
- One semester of linear algebra (UW-Madison equivalent: MATH 340 Elementary Matrix and Linear Algebra)
- Single variable calculus (UW-Madison equivalent: MATH 421 The Theory of Single Variable Calculus)
- One semester of probability and one semester of mathematical statistics (UW-Madison equivalent: STAT 309 Introduction to Probability and Mathematical Statistics I, STAT 310 Introduction to Probability and Mathematical Statistics II)

- Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above, or the equivalent at their degree-granting undergraduate institution
- English proficiency: one of the following
 - o TOEFL: 85 or higher
 - o IELTS: 6.5 or higher
 - o iTEP: 3.9 or higher
 - o Duolingo: 110 or higher

Onboarding

Admitted students will be emailed information as a guide to what new students in the Statistics-VISP program should do and know before enrolling in courses. This information is supplemental to the information in this handbook. Any questions can be directed to visp-msds@stat.wisc.edu.

Students will also participate in orientation to the Statistics-VISP program, including a required online Canvas course as well as an optional drop-in information session. Information about the drop-in information session event will be included in the online Canvas course as well as sent via email to wisc.edu campus addresses.

The VISP program also hosts orientation events for VISP students, and all Statistics-VISP students are highly encouraged to attend. Questions about these events can be directed to visp@dcw.wisc.edu.

Housing

Listed below is a collection of resources for finding housing in Madison. This is not an exhaustive list; rather it is a good place to begin looking for possible housing. It is highly recommended that new students check out any place before signing a lease. Don't hesitate to ask people in Madison for referrals of places to look and for assistance in looking at a place. There are the places where students do (and don't) want to live. Campus parking is very difficult for students to get, so most students choose to live within walking or biking distance from campus, or near a bus line.

- [Campus area housing listing service](#) - This service is provided by Campus and Visitor Relations and includes listings for apartments, houses, efficiencies, rooms and co-ops for students and the university community, along with other housing-related information.
 - o The [VISP Off-campus Housing website](#) has a great FAQ about housing in Madison which includes a "Madison Housing Map." Many students like to live in the Vilas neighborhood (region 4) and the Williamson ("Willy") Street/Jenifer ("Jenny") Street neighborhoods (region 6). Some graduate students and young professionals live in the apartments just west of Hilldale Mall (region 10). These regions are readily accessible to campus by both bus and bike and the general population is not undergrads. Other regions close by to those neighborhoods will also have good bus and bike access to campus.
 - o Large Madison-area property managers:
 - [Madison Property Management](#)
 - [Steve Brown Apartments](#)
 - [Mullins Apartments](#)

- **On-campus housing** - Housing options for undergraduate and graduate students through the [Division of University Housing](#)

Advising and Mentoring

Advising relationships are a central part of academia and are important to the experience of both students and faculty members.

Your advisor can help answer questions, track your progress in Statistics-VISP, assist with course selection and planning your academic path, and helping you identify various opportunities. Students in the Statistics-VISP program have access to the VISP & MSDS Program Coordinator, Jinda Moore, and Chair, Jun Shao, (visp-msds@stat.wisc.edu) for academic advising.

Both the student and advisor are responsible for making their expectations clear to each other. Be sure to discuss this with your advisor. Students in the program are expected to read their wisc.edu emails on a regular basis, respond to emails from the chair and student services coordinator, fill out their course approval plan form and other requested forms in a timely fashion, and contact the advisors when they have questions or concerns. These should all be done in a timely manner. See the [Statistics Department Advising Expectations webpage](#) for further information about advising expectations for both students and advisors.

Office Hours

Professors, teaching assistants, and other instructors schedule time outside of class to meet with students called “office hours.” Office hours are times when you can meet your instructor to discuss coursework or other related interests. This may include asking for extra help understanding class materials, or even just following up on something you found interesting in class.

Instructors typically share their office hours’ time and location in their course syllabus. Students often visit office hours to discuss their academic and/or professional interests, such as graduate school or future internship or job prospects. (Note: VISP students may not participate in internships due to the non-degree nature of the program.)

While office hours are not required, many students find that visiting their instructors during this time can be very helpful. Instructors do not have any lessons planned during this time, and it is typically the student’s responsibility to lead the interaction. A good way to prepare for office hours is to review your course materials, noting areas where you may need more help along with any questions you may have. It’s also a good idea to start attending office hours early in the semester, rather than waiting until you’re overwhelmed near the end of the term – it’s easier to keep up with coursework than to try to catch up at the last second.

Note that office hours are not a time when your instructor will complete your assignments for you. Study your materials and try to complete any assignments before going to office hours. This will help you form good questions to discuss with your instructor.

Statistics-VISP Program Requirements

Enrollment Requirements

Statistics-VISP students will take a mix of required core courses and electives. Please note that students must complete the Statistics-VISP program curriculum and are only permitted to take courses outside of the Statistics department in certain situations. If a student does not wish to complete Statistics-VISP requirements, they may work with the VISP Program Coordinators (visp@dcs.wisc.edu) to switch to the general VISP track.

The core courses include:

- STAT 303, 304, 305 R for Statistics I, II, and III (each 1 credit, total of 3 credits)
 - Description: An understanding of the commonly used statistical language R. Topics will include using R to manipulate data, perform exploratory data analysis, writing conditional expressions, loops, and functions; manipulating data matrices and arrays; extracting data from text; making high level visualizations of data, combine R with high performance computing tools to do scientific computing.
- STAT 601 Statistical Methods I (4 credits)
 - Description: Provides a thorough grounding in modern statistical methods. The specific learning outcomes for the course are to understand data collection in context (how/why data were collected, key questions under study); explore data by effective graphical and numerical summaries; understand probability concepts and models as tools for studying random phenomena and for statistical inference; analyze data using appropriate, modern statistical models, methods, and software; understand the statistical concepts underlying methods; develop the ability to interpret results and critically evaluate the methods used; communicate data analysis and key findings in context.
- STAT 610 Introduction to Statistical Inference (4 credits)
 - Description: Conditioning, distribution theory, approximation to distributions, modes of convergence, limit theorems, statistical models, parameter estimation, comparison of estimators, confidence sets, theory of hypothesis tests, introduction to Bayesian inference and nonparametric estimation.
- STAT 615 Statistical Learning (3 credits)
 - Description: The development of a variety of mathematical theories and statistical concepts (1) to understand the properties of those models and methods used for the purpose of prediction from data or decision making from data, and (2) to criticize such models, methods and their consequences. Specifically, the theories and tools that will be developed will include complexity theory, Hilbert spaces, Gaussian processes, Variational Analysis, and concentration inequalities.

A variety of Statistics-taught undergraduate elective courses are available through the Department of Statistics for students to choose from. The Statistics-VISP program coordinator will send a list of undergraduate elective courses offered each semester that are available for Statistics-VISP student enrollment.

Statistics-VISP students are **NOT** permitted to enroll in any graduate-level electives including from within and outside of the Statistics department.

Enrollment Deadlines

Students are responsible for understanding and following enrollment deadlines. You can view the term's course add and drop dates on the [Registrar's Office Dates & Deadlines webpage](#). Students are highly encouraged to bookmark this webpage and refer to it when making decisions around enrollment changes.

Other Enrollment Information

If a course has a discussion section, attendance is **MANDATORY**. This is an additional meeting time where students and instructors (usually a teaching assistant) will practice course concepts, have assignments, and other requirements. Discussion sections are required courses—make sure you are able to attend your discussion sections.

Please note that some courses are designated as “honors” sections. VISP students are not permitted to take classes for honors credit.

Additionally, the ‘50% graduate coursework requirement’ course option designation is not relevant for VISP students. VISP students may take courses with this designation without any prior approval.

Stat 303-305 Waivers

Some students may have completed coursework at their undergraduate institution that is equivalent to STAT 303-305 R for Statistics I, II, III. Statistics-VISP Program Coordinators will evaluate requests for students to be exempt from taking STAT 303-305.

For coordinators to evaluate previous coursework, please send an email to visp-msds@stat.wisc.edu with:

- Unofficial PDF of transcript
- Course syllabus with:
 - Required textbook
 - Assignment calendar
 - Course topics/learning outcomes
- If original documents are in Chinese, please provide an English translation as well as the original document

If coordinators determine course equivalency, students will be granted a waiver for STAT 303-305 and will be permitted to enroll in an additional elective course (from the Statistics or another department).

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Students must make satisfactory academic progress in the Statistics-VISP program. If the following requirements are not met, students risk removal from Statistics-VISP and ineligibility to continue to MSDS.

- Follow the prescribed enrollment requirements:

- o In-person Statistics-VISP students must take a minimum of 12 credit hours from Statistics-taught courses and a maximum of 4 credits from departments that are not Statistics (i.e. COMP SCI, MATH) per semester
- o Online Statistics-VISP students must take a minimum of one Statistics-VISP course per semester
- Have an approved course plan survey for each semester they are enrolled in the program
- Earn a grade of B or higher in the 'core' MSDS courses: STAT 601, 610, 615

Academic Misconduct

Examples of academic misconduct include cheating, plagiarism, copying homework, and/or stealing an exam or course materials. The University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Statistics-VISP program take academic misconduct allegations very seriously.

Academic misconduct is governed by state law, UW System Administration Code Chapter 14. For further information on this law, what constitutes academic misconduct, and procedures related to academic misconduct, see:

Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards

[Academic Misconduct Website](#)

[Academic Misconduct Flowchart](#)

University of Wisconsin System (UWS)

[Chapter 14: Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures](#)

Non-Academic Misconduct

Non-academic misconduct includes things that work against the University of Wisconsin-Madison's and the Statistics-VISP program's living and learning environment that is free from violence, harassment, intimidation, fraud, theft, etc. It may include things like hate or bias, sexual violence, hazing, and other issues, all of which are taken very seriously by the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Statistics-VISP program.

Non-academic misconduct is governed by state law, UW System Administration Code Chapters 17 and 18. For further information on these laws, what constitutes non-academic misconduct, and procedures related to non-academic misconduct, see:

Office for Student Conduct and Community Standards

[Non-Academic Misconduct Website](#)

University of Wisconsin System (UWS)

[Chapter 17: Student Non-Academic Disciplinary Procedures](#)

[Chapter 18: Conduct on University Lands](#)

Research

Statistics-VISP students may be permitted to participate in research for elective credit during their time in the program. Information on research opportunities can be found through the [Undergraduate Research Scholar program webpage](#) and the [Statistics Research for Undergraduates webpage](#).

Required Home Institution Curriculum

Typically, Statistics-VISP students are not permitted to take courses outside of the Statistics-VISP curriculum. In some cases, a student's home institution will require a specific course at UW-Madison to be taken to satisfy their program/degree requirements. If an undergraduate/home institution requires a course to be taken that is not a part of the Statistics-VISP curriculum, students will need to forward an email from the home institution to visp-msds@stat.wisc.edu showing this. Statistics-VISP coordinators will then work with the general VISP Program Coordinators to do our best to accommodate this request.

Apply to MSDS

Students who participate in the Statistics-VISP program and complete some MS Statistics: Statistics & Data Science (MSDS) degree requirements may apply and be admitted to the MSDS program, if they meet eligibility requirements. They may request to transfer up to 14 credits from their VISP coursework to the MSDS program once admitted.

Eligibility

Students are eligible to continue to MSDS if they:

- Are making [satisfactory academic progress](#) in Statistics-VISP
- Have completed at least one 'core' MSDS course from STAT 601, 610, or 615 and earned a grade of B or higher in all completed core courses
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 during the program
- Meet minimum English proficiency requirements set by the Graduate School: <https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/>

Application Requirements

Submit your graduate school application by March 1:

<https://apply.grad.wisc.edu/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2f>


- Fill out the application (select the appropriate term)
- Upload the following documents
 - o Statement of interest
 - o Resume
 - o PDF transcript (unofficial) for each institution you have attended including UW-Madison. These must be unprotected files otherwise they cannot be uploaded.
 - [Click here to learn how to request your unofficial UW-Madison transcript.](#) This PDF is the **ONLY** document you can upload for this purpose, do not upload your current schedule or your grade report from last semester
 - o References – you are not required by the program to submit letters. However, the application system will not allow you to submit without at least indicating references

- You must enter in names and emails. Please feel free to list VISP/MSDS program coordinators: Jinda Moore (jinda.moore@wisc.edu), Sara Rodock (rodock@wisc.edu), and Jun Shao (shao@stat.wisc.edu)
- After “saving” your recommender, click the gray “send notification later” button:

Send Recommendation Notification
×

The notification email to this recommender has not been sent. Please choose one of the options below.

If you choose to send the notification email later, you can select to send the notification email from the table on this page or the notification email will be sent when this application is submitted.



Send Notification Later

Send Notification Now

- Because the MSDS program does not require Statistics-VISP students to submit recommendation letters, program coordinators will not actually upload letters
- Supplemental application – you must provide information on your prior courses that meet the prerequisite courses for the program (feel free to enter this information or “currently in Statistics-VISP” in each box)
- Pay your application fee
- **No GRE required**
- English Proficiency Scores (i.e: TOEFL, IELTS):
 - Per [Graduate School requirements](#), the required proficiency scores are a minimum of 92 internet (iBT) TOEFL, and a minimum 7.0 IELTS.
 - *Students who do not meet these minimum scores but scored between 80-91 on the TOEFL or scored 6.5 IELTS can be granted admission.* However, per [Graduate School policy](#), an English assessment test (ESLAT) will be required upon arrival in the US, and a recommended English as a Second language (ESL) course must be completed successfully in your first semester as an MSDS student. *If these requirements are not met, you risk removal from the MSDS program.*
 - Students who originally scored below a 92 TOEFL or 7 IELTS may choose to retake their English proficiency test & submit the scores to the Graduate School. These scores can be submitted after the March 1st MSDS application deadline, but admission will not be finalized until the Graduate School receives the updated scores.
 - Students who have not completed 2 full time semesters of instruction in the U.S./in English must submit an English proficiency score. This score may arrive after the March 1st MSDS application deadline. The application will be processed, but not finalized by the Graduate School, until official English proficiency scores are received.
 - Exemptions:
 - **Students with 2 full time semesters of instruction in the U.S./in English are not required to submit an English proficiency score**, per Graduate School Requirements. However,

if a student achieves a 92 or higher on the TOEFL, they may choose to submit that score for faster I-20 processing

- When applying to the VISP program, VISP program coordinators allow different English Proficiency tests than the UW-Madison Graduate School. Students may apply to VISP with TOEFL, IELTS, iTEP, or Duolingo. However, applicants to the MSDS program **must** submit either a TOEFL or IELTS score.

Admission Timeline

- Deadlines for applications:
 - o Fall start term: applications due March 1st
 - o Spring start term: applications due October 15th
- English Proficiency submission date:
 - o If a student is required to submit an English proficiency score, this can be submitted **AFTER** the application deadline. The Graduate School will wait to finalize the student's admission until scores are received, so it is in a student's best interest to submit the score as close to the deadline as possible. Contact the Graduate Admissions office (admissions@grad.wisc.edu) for questions about sending scores or the receipt of scores
- Decision notifications:
 - o Fall start term: decisions sent out to applicants by no later than April 1st
 - o Spring start term: decisions sent out by late November
- Finalize admission:
 - o Once a student receives their final transcript from their undergraduate degree granting institution, they must send the official transcript to the UW Madison Graduate Admissions office to finalize their admission to the Graduate School
 - o After the Graduate School receives a final, official document (with all grades and the degree posted), they will work to issue a new I-20 document
- Arrive on campus for MSDS:
 - o The ISS office lists the [earliest date that students may arrive in the US](#)

Academic Excellence Scholarship

The Statistics department offers a limited number of selective scholarships to highly qualified Statistics-VISP students who have been admitted to the MSDS program. Students may receive a one-time scholarship applied to their tuition account in their first semester in the MSDS program.

MSDS Program Policies & Handbook

MSDS students, as Graduate Students, will need to follow both the program requirements and the [Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures](#). The [MSDS program requirements can be found online](#) (program requirements and policies section in the middle of the page) in our handbook. Please note that an updated version of the 2023-24 handbook will become available late this summer 2023.

Transferring Coursework from VISP to MSDS

Students may transfer up to 14 credits of eligible coursework toward MSDS [STAT 601 (4 cr), 610 (4 cr), 615 (3 cr), and either STAT 606 (3 cr) or 3 credits of undergraduate Statistics

electives] if a grade of B or higher was earned in the course. To fulfill the requirement of 30 credits for MSDS degree, students must complete their remaining credits in two or three semesters following the VISP year. Students who transfer the maximum of 14 credits will still be required to complete 16 credits as a graduate student to meet the Graduate School's MS residency requirement.

VISP to MSDS Enrollment Options

Statistics-VISP students have several options for completing the VISP/MSDS curriculum, either full- or part-time over one or two semesters. The options are listed below.

Option 1 – Full-time, 2 semesters

Students can participate full-time (12-18 credit enrollment) for both the fall and spring semester. Students who opt into this program would have the following curriculum:

- Fall – 14+ credits
 - o STAT 601 Statistical Methods I (4)*
 - o STAT 610 Introduction to Statistical Inference (4)*
 - o STAT 303/304/305 R for Statistics I, II, and III (3)
 - o Statistics undergraduate elective (3)
 - o *Optional additional elective inside or outside Statistics (1-4)*
- Spring – 12+ credits
 - o STAT 615 Statistical Learning (3)*
 - o STAT 606 (3) or Statistics undergraduate elective (3)
 - o Additional elective inside or outside Statistics (3)
 - o *Optional additional elective inside or outside Statistics (1-4)*

Option 2 – Full-time, 1 semester

Students can participate full-time (12-18 credit enrollment) for a single semester (fall or spring). Students who opt in to this program would have the following curriculum

- Fall or Spring – 14+ credits
 - o STAT 601 Statistical Methods I (4)*
 - o STAT 610 Introduction to Statistical Inference (4)*
 - o STAT 303/304/305 R for Statistics I, II, and III (3)
 - o Statistics undergraduate elective (3)
 - o *Optional additional elective inside or outside Statistics (1-4)*

Option 3 – Part-time, 2 semesters

Students can participate part-time (4-11 credits) for both the fall and spring semesters. Students who opt in to this program would have the following curriculum

- Fall – 4+ credits
 - o STAT 601 Statistical Methods I (4)*
 - o Other optional courses could include:
 - STAT 610 Introduction to Statistical Inference (4)*
 - STAT 303/304/305 R for Statistics I, II, and III (3)
 - Statistics undergraduate elective (3)
- Spring – 4+ credits
 - o STAT 610 Introduction to Statistical Inference (4)*

- o Other optional courses could include
 - STAT 615 Statistical Learning (3)*
 - STAT 606 (3) or Statistics undergraduate elective (3)
 - STAT 303/304/305 R for Statistics I, II, and III (3)
 - Statistics undergraduate elective (3)

Option 4 – Part-time, 1 semester

Students can participate part-time (4-11 credits) in either the fall or spring semester. Students who opt in to this program would have the following curriculum

- Fall or Spring – 4+ credits
 - o STAT 601 Statistical Methods I (4)*
 - o Other optional courses could include
 - STAT 610 Introduction to Statistical Inference (4)*
 - STAT 615 Statistical Learning (3)*
 - STAT 303/304/305 R for Statistics I, II, and III (3)
 - Statistics undergraduate elective (3)

Summary of Program Options

Time in VISP	Enrollment Type	Total Credits	Location	Transferable Credits to MSDS	Admission to MSDS*	MSDS Time to Degree
1 year	Full-time	24-36	If in U.S., visa required	14	Yes, no TOEFL required	2 semesters
1 semester	Full-time	12-18	If in U.S., visa required	11	Yes, TOEFL 92+ required	2 semesters
1 year	Part-time	8-22	Remote only, no visa	8-14	Yes, TOEFL 92+ required	2-3 semesters
1 semester	Part-time	4-11	Remote only, no visa	4-11	Yes, TOEFL 92+ required	2-3 semesters

*Students who participate in a spring semester will be given a conditional admission that will be confirmed after spring grades are received.

Students who are not interested in any of the options above are welcome to enroll as a general VISP student and request access to Statistics courses. This would include students who are not interested in the core courses (STAT 601 in particular) or who are interested in taking additional courses from outside of the program curriculum.

Program Extension to Summer

Students who have completed both fall and spring term in the Statistics-VISP program and wish to stay in the US over the summer term may do so. Students will need to contact the VISP program coordinators at visp@dcs.wisc.edu for a visa extension. Students will also be required to enroll in at least one summer term course (talk to VISP program coordinators for specific information). Unfortunately, students are unable to accept an internship during this summer since they are on a non-degree-seeking program visa.

Career Services for Statistics-VISP Students

The Department of Statistics has [several career resources for students](#), including a list of annual job fairs, student job listings, and career planning services. The Professional Programs Resources tab on the drop-down menu will be particularly helpful for Stats-VISP students.

International Students Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The Department of Statistics has created a [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) webpage for international students](#) with quick answers regarding commonly asked questions. Of course, any student needing help with additional questions should feel free to reach out to visp-msds@stat.wisc.edu. However, we anticipate that many questions can be answered by viewing the FAQ page.

VISP/MSDS Policy FAQ

- Definitions of student categories:
 - Statistics-VISP: students who are in the first year of the Statistics-VISP program
 - MSDS: VISP second-year students and first and second year direct admit students in the MS Statistics: Statistics & Data Science program
- Employment:
 - [Per ISS and US Federal Regulations](#), VISP and MSDS students on F-1 visas are eligible to work on campus for up to 20 hours a week. They are **not** permitted to accept employment that offers tuition remission or other benefits, such as a teaching assistantship, research assistantship, or project assistantship.
- GPA:
 - Students are required to have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA each semester. If a student's GPA is lower than a 3.0, they may be ineligible to apply for the MSDS program. Contact program coordinators at visp-msds@stat.wisc.edu for information on specific situations
- Holds
 - Holds are placed on student accounts for various reasons. You can check to see if you have a hold on your account by logging onto your [MyUW Student Center](#), selecting Tasks and reviewing any Holds listed. Some holds require you to act; others are informational only
 - More information about holds can be found on the [Bursar's Office website](#)
 - If you encounter the "The hold must be removed before you can enroll" error when you try to enroll, you need to remove the hold on your account and then enroll. Please [check here](#) for information on what to do.
- Honors:
 - Statistics-VISP students are not eligible to enroll in honors programs
- Minors:
 - Minors are only for Ph.D. students. Statistics-VISP may take classes in other departments as long as the required number of statistics courses are taken each semester
- 16 credits in residence:
 - Per [UW-Madison Graduate School policy](#), MSDS students are required to take at least 16 credits at UW-Madison as an MSDS master's degree student to meet the minimum graduate residence credits requirements.