

DBMI MS Program - New Student Information

Setting up your login to CIS (your university student portal - **due by Wednesday, 21 May 2025**)

This is covered in your U of U admission letter. If you do not have a U of U admission letter, please contact the Office of Admission at graduate@utah.edu or call 801-581-8761.

Email, Email Aliases, and Listserv (Alias set-up **due by Wednesday, 21 May 2025**)

The **official line of communication from the University to the students is through your uemail email address**. As professors are better at remembering names than they are UID#s we prefer you set up your uemail alias to be firstname.lastname@utah.edu. The university's "New Student Guide to IT Resources" ([hyperlinked here](#)) under the UMail section provides information on how to do this. You can also call the Campus Help Desk (801) 581-4000 for support. Other very useful resources and information are noted in the student IT guide.

Your Umail email address should be your primary school email address during your time at the University of Utah. **Starting 22 May**, I will only be responding to your questions to your uemail to stay in compliance with FERPA Regulations. Most student services on campus (i.e. Registrar's Office, Income Accounts, etc.) will also only communicate with you through your uemail.

Your Umail will be added to the MS student listserv, dbmi-ms@lists.utah.edu. Academic information, department events, networking and practicum opportunities, and more are shared through the listserv.

Declaring your MS Program Emphasis (**due by Wednesday, 21 May 2025**)

Upon applying for our program, most of you selected your area of interest, referred to as emphases. We offer three options, which include:

- [APPLIED CLINICAL INFORMATICS](#)
- [BIOMEDICAL AI & DATA SCIENCE](#)
- [TRANSLATIONAL BIOINFORMATICS](#)

All Students must declare an emphasis for their MS degree.

- **Declare your emphasis [here](#)** or use this short link, <https://forms.gle/Ajt3JyB3Qk4pHJa87>.
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Registering for Fall 2025 classes (**Due by Sunday, 15 June 2025**)

- Students enroll in classes through their CIS account → Student Homepage → Registration (tile).
 - The Registrar's Office uEnroll Quick Reference Guide (found [here](#)) is a great resource on how to register for courses.
- Your emphasis outlines your program of study (POS) and informs you which courses to take each semester. If you are attending part-time, please email me and I'll provide you with the approved 3-year POS, which are not posted on our website.
- Please refer to the internal Fall 2025 classes schedule grid Excel that I included in your onboarding email. The first sheet provides a visual of program required courses. The second sheet provides course sections information, including the class numbers needed to register through your CIS.
 - Please do not share our internal grid with anyone.
 - We don't foresee this happening, but If schedule changes need to occur, I'll send out a new grid immediately and point out the change that may impact you.
 - The online published Fall 2025 BMI schedule is [hyperlinked here](#).
- Students on an F-1 or J-1 visa are required to register for at least 9 credit hours each semester, except in the summer or in their last semester in the program. You will need to take an elective course in the fall.

- **Only register for BMI course sections 001 or 090.** Exception: For BMI 6018, students on an F-1 or J-1 visa must register for section 003 instead of section 001. The class registration number is on the second sheet of the schedule grid document. Section 003 is not published in the online class schedule.
 - **Have you already taken some program required courses as a non-matriculated student?**
 - o If you receive a B or higher grade for courses your emphasis requires, you do not have to repeat them now that you're in the program.
 - o You may need an alternative POS. Let's connect if we haven't already discussed what your POS will look like to finish your MS degree. Schedule an appointment with me.
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Python Programming Skills Preparation (Due by Monday, 18 August 2025)

Students are expected to have a basic understanding of Python programming before classes start this Fall 2025. If you do not already have the foundational programming knowledge, we have put together the following to help you get started. We understand students have different academic and/or professional backgrounds, so you can select what to complete. We are not in need of proof of certificates or graded courses. What is needed is a basic understanding of Linux, Git and GitHub, and Jupyter notebooks to be successful in BMI 6018, which you will take in the fall. You can start by focusing on the Linux and programming environments.

- The University's CHPC Summer 2025 schedule can be found here. **Presentations run 13 May through 22 July.** Read over the full webpage for dates, session durations and Zoom information. All the times shown are based on Mountain Time.
 - o To prepare for presentation sessions visit <https://www.chpc.utah.edu/presentations/>.
 - o We recommend 'Hands-on Intro to Linux... (3 Part Series)', 'Hands-on Intro to Python... (3 Part Series)' and 'Using Git for Version Control'.
 - o Past Linux recordings can be found here.

Alternatively, and considering everyone's availability differs, we suggest you find free tutorials online that work for you. Other resources that students have found useful for BMI 6018 preparation are below. **These are word-of-mouth resources. These are not endorsed by the professor or the University, but you might find them very useful.**

<https://product.hubspot.com/blog/git-and-github-tutorial-for-beginners>
<https://www.datacamp.com/tutorial/tutorial-jupyter-notebook>
<https://www.dataquest.io/blog/jupyter-notebook-tutorial/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HW29067qVWk>

If you have any concerns about the basic understanding of programming skills, please contact Dr. Fatemeh Shah-Mohammadi, the BMI 6018 professor, at fatemeh.shah-mohammadi@utah.edu.

Are you a skilled user of Python Programming? (Full process due by Friday, 22 August 2025)

BMI 6018 Intro to Programming for Biomedical Data Science is our course that teaches students Python programming skills and is taken in your first semester of the program, Fall 2025. If you would like to consider waving BMI 6018, let's connect. Schedule an appointment with me. I'll explain the petition process and we'll look at how this impacts your fall 2025 registration, and subsequently your POS.

NOTE: It is easier to work on this before the Fall 2025 semester starts than to do it during the first week of classes. Plan ahead!

New Student Orientation – Save the Date!

The **DBMI New Student Orientation** will be held on **Wednesday, 13 August 2025** sometime between 10AM-4:30PM. Only Applied Clinical Informatic students who will be living out-of-state while completing their program are allowed to attend virtually. **If this applies to you, notify me by Wednesday, 16 July**. Otherwise, new students need to make the necessary arrangements to attend in-person. More orientation details will be provided once available.

International Students (on F-1 or J-1 Visas) New Student Orientation: This orientation is organized by the International Student & Scholars Services (ISSS) Office, and information can be found [here](#). The Fall 2025 orientation dates have not yet been released. It is strongly encouraged that F-1 and J-1 visa students attend this orientation, and that you register in advance for one of the days opposite of our required program orientation. If you have any questions about the ISSS Orientation, please contact their office directly.

Sending Official Transcripts to the Office of Admissions (**Due Friday, 29 August 2025**)

Everyone needs to submit final official transcripts to the University's Office of Admissions. The exception is providing official U of U transcripts and/or if you graduated from the U of U and have not attended any other college/university since last enrolling at the U. The MS program does not require final official transcripts.

The transcripts you uploaded to your admissions application are not considered official. Transcripts must be sent from each institution directly to the University of Utah to be considered official.

- Information on how to send official transcripts can be found [here](#).
- Information on international documents can be found [here](#).

If you are graduating from a degree (or taking classes) this spring or summer semester, hold off on sending your official transcript(s) until after your degree has been awarded (or grade has been posted) and noted on your academic record. If any of your courses show an in-progress and/or degree is not showing awarded on the official transcripts, then you'll have to send official transcripts again.

Statistics Preparation (**Due before spring 2026 semester classes start on Monday, 5 January 2026**)

In preparation for taking BMI 6105/6106 during Spring 2026, the following knowledge is necessary to be equipped to start the course. Because each student has different academic and/or professional backgrounds, you can determine what activity/activities to complete if necessary.

Applied Clinical Informatics students - Prepare for BMI 6105:

- Udacity: <https://www.udacity.com/course/intro-to-statistics--st101>
- Proof of submission is not required for BMI 6105.

Biomed AI & Data Science *and* Translational Bioinformatics students - Prepare for BMI 6106:

Statistics:

- Complete at least one of the stats/R tutorials. Upload the completion certificate (or screenshot of completion) to the BMI 6106 Canvas course once it goes live over winter break 2025. For most of these options, if you audit the course there's no charge.
 - o Stanford Online (**preferred**): <https://online.stanford.edu/courses/xfds112-r-programming-fundamentals>
 - o Coursera: <https://www.coursera.org/learn/stanford-statistics>
 - o Coursera: <https://www.coursera.org/learn/probability-intro>
 - o Datacamp: <https://www.datacamp.com/courses/free-introduction-to-r>
 - o Udacity: <https://www.udacity.com/course/intro-to-statistics--st101>

- (Optional) Additional resource for statistics:
 - o Statistical Data Analysis in Python, SciPy2013 Tutorial, Part 1, 2, 3, and 4
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXPwSiRTxYY>

Git version control (Optional)

- Git Basics: <https://git-scm.com/book/en/v2/Getting-Started-Git-Basics>
- Complete this Git tutorial and upload the link to a repository you created: <https://try.github.io/levels/1/challenges/1>

Math review (Optional)

- <http://people.duke.edu/~ccc14/sta-663-2017/>
 - o From “Linear Algebra Review” to “Sparse Matrices”
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/math/precalculus/precalc-matrices>
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/math/calculus-home>
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/math/linear-algebra>
- <https://www.coursera.org/specializations/mathematics-machine-learning>

Assignments Submission

Submission of any of the activities you complete occurs during winter break 2025 when the BMI 6106 Canvas course goes live. Keep completion records (i.e. e-certificate, emails, screenshots) handy to follow up on this last part over winter break 2025. Quiz hyperlinks below are currently not live, but Eli will follow-up with you once they are.

- Record completion of the stats/R tutorial in [this quiz](#) for this module.
- Record completion of programming and math tutorials in the [quiz](#) for this module.

Financial Information

I need to stress that I am not an expert nor trained in the following information - I only have general knowledge to help guide students in terms of what they may need to know, may need to consider, where to seek information, and which offices can help answer questions.

- The University’s Tuition & Fees Schedules can be found here <https://bursar.utah.edu/tuition-schedules/>.
 - o Look for Biomedical Informatics and then click on ‘Resident’ or ‘Non-Resident’ to see your respective schedule.
 - I’m noticing the 2025-26 schedules haven’t been uploaded yet but that should be happening any day now.
- Information on tuition Payment Plans and Payment Methods can be found here: <https://bursar.utah.edu/payment-options/>.
- If you are registered for fall courses, tuition charges are usually calculated on 1 August.
- Tuition FAQs can be found here <https://bursar.utah.edu/faq/>.
- Tuition due dates are noted in the University’s academic calendars, here <https://registrar.utah.edu/academic-calendars/index.php>
 - o Refer to the ‘By Semester’ or ‘By Academic Year’ options to see due dates.
 - o Failure to pay tuition (and housing charges, if applicable) by the due date could result in unenrollment of your courses.
- If you need to and are eligible to apply for FAFSA, and haven’t done so already, visit <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa> for more information and apply asap.

- Your Tuition & Loans information, once available, will be viewable in your Tuition & Loans tile in your CIS portal.
 - If you are a U of U Employee who qualifies for the Tuition Reduction Benefit, you must submit your application *prior* to the first day of the semester, each semester.
 - You can submit a few applications in advance.
 - Information about this benefit can be found here <https://benefits.utah.edu/tuition-reduction/#link>.
 - U of U Financial Planning Resources:
 - The U's Graduate School has a "Funding Grad School" horizontal tab here <https://gradschool.utah.edu/> with funding information that may be helpful to your specific situation.
 - The U's Financial Wellness Center is great at helping students (once you start classes in the fall) make informed decisions about their money. More information here <https://financialwellness.utah.edu/>.
 - The U's Financial Aid Office has gathered scholarship search engines that they encourage students to use - <https://financialaid.utah.edu/types-of-aid/scholarships/other-resources.php>.
 - For International Students: The U's Admissions Office has put together this list of scholarship information for international students - <https://admissions.utah.edu/financial-aid-scholarships/scholarships/international-scholarships/>.
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Other Logistics

Later this summer, I will provide details on the following items to your email:

- Requesting your student ID UCard
- Gaining suite access to DBMI Classroom 1470
- Obtaining a free REA Parking Permit
- Transferring in approved non-matriculated credit hours (if applicable)

Important Notice - Have plans changed?

We hope that all of you will start this fall with us, but if there are circumstances that have led you to have to reconsider attending, please let me know as soon as you can. I will help you take the necessary steps to update your student status. **Students have until Friday, 29 August 2025 to unenroll in fall courses.** The University requires students to pay full tuition and fees after this deadline even if you do not continue with fall courses.