Welcome and Where to Find Help

Hello, students!

This course can be taken for academic credit as part of CU Boulder's Master of Science in Data Science (MS-DS) degree offered on the Coursera platform. The MS-DS is an interdisciplinary degree that brings together faculty from CU Boulder's departments of Applied Mathematics, Computer Science, Information Science, and others. With performance-based admissions and no application process, the MS-DS is ideal for individuals with a broad range of undergraduate education and/or professional experience in computer science, information science, mathematics, and statistics. Learn more about the MS-DS program at this link.

This post contains important information about the difference between non-credit and for-credit versions of the course and how to reach out for assistance. Please do take the time to read through it carefully, as it will be important in the successful completion of this course.

For-Credit and Non-Credit Course Options

You may take this course either for-credit or in the non-credit version. Moreover, you can enroll in the for-credit version of the course for this term at any point, up until the enrollment deadline (for all deadlines, see the MS-DS calendar). Any work you have completed in the non-credit version of the course will transfer over to the for-credit version of the course at that time. The content and assignments for the for-credit and non-credit courses are the same. However, there are a few important differences between the courses in terms of support.

The non-credit version of the course is designed to run as a free and fairly autonomous MOOC course for anyone seeking to further their knowledge about the course topic. About once a week, course facilitators will look at the non-credit discussion forums and feedback boards periodically for feedback on ways to improve the course and will also try to periodically respond to any questions you have that you post in the discussion forums. However, course facilitators and instructors are unable to view your grades or assignments to give you feedback or make modifications while you are enrolled in the non-credit version of the course, and they cannot provide the same level of support in terms of discussion forum monitoring and feedback as they are able to provide for the for-credit version of the course.

In the for-credit version of the course, instructors and course facilitators can view your grades and individual assignments, and thus can give you feedback on your assignments and make modifications to resolve grading issues. Moreover, your course facilitator will host live (virtual) office hours twice a