

Handbook

MA in Social Technologies / Critical Data Studies

2020 – 2021



Program Welcome

Welcome to the ST/CDS program in the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences at Arizona State University. We are truly excited for you to join us. This is a transitional period, as we take up significant changes to our curriculum, add new faculty, and deal with the outcomes of a global pandemic. But those challenges also bring opportunities, and your joining the program means new opportunities for you, and for our scholarly community.

Datafication is affecting every facet of our social, business, political, and personal lives. Everyone is trying to come to grips with it as it applies to their own organizations and lives. This program is designed to make you an expert in the ways in which data can be used and misused. Rather than just trying to adapt to the new opportunities and threats that big data brings, it means you are capable of leading change and shaping our future datafied landscape. That future should mean professionals who are aware of the ways in which inequality is coded into algorithmic culture, and are prepared to change that.

This also means that you should be ready to carve your own path. Early on in the program you should be thinking about the kinds of knowledge and abilities you need in order to accomplish your goals. I and the other faculty of the program are ready to help you figure that out. By the time you graduate, you will have demonstrated a set of competencies and knowledge that will make you a rarity: someone who is able to cross the technical and scientific with the organizational and deeply human.

In this program you will be working closely with top scholars in the field. Take advantage of this opportunity to not only learn from them in classes but to meet with them during office hours, in labs, and elsewhere. Get to know all the members of the scholarly community—faculty, staff, students, and alums—because all will contribute to your education and success.

This handbook has been prepared to assist you in navigating the challenging realm of graduate studies. It is meant to be a handy basic guide to procedures. If you have questions about anything, please contact me or the graduate advisors at New College and at ASU Graduate College.

Welcome aboard!



Alexander Halavais

Graduate Director, Master of Arts in Social Technologies

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Admissions

Admission to the MA program is offered in Spring and Fall Semester. The program uses a rolling admission deadline. Please refer to the [Graduate Degree Search](#) website for up to date admission information and deadlines.

Tuition Costs

Tuition is set by ASU and the Arizona Board of Regents every year. The most up to date tuition and fees are available by [clicking here](#). You can use the interactive calculator on this site to determine information regarding your cost of attendance.

Curriculum and Graduation Requirements

General Curriculum – 33 credits

Fall Semester Start

First Semester (Fall – 9 Credits)

- STC 512: Data, Places, People, and Things
- STC 536: Network Publics
- STC 539: Social Search & Filtering

Second Semester (Spring – 9 Credits)

- STC 501: Theories of Data & Society
- STC 510: Data Wrangling
- STC 550: Computational Social Methods I

Third Semester (Summer – 6 Credits)

- STC 537: Technologies of Community
- STC 551: Computational Social Methods II

Fourth Semester (Fall – 9 Credits)

- STC 527: Ethics and Policies of Social Data
- STC 528: Communicating Data Science
- STC 570: Social Data Projects

Spring Semester Start

First Semester (Spring – 9 Credits)

- STC 501: Theories of Data & Society
- STC 510: Data Wrangling
- STC 550: Computational Social Methods I

Second Semester (Summer – 6 Credits)

- STC 537: Technologies of Community
- STC 551: Computational Social Methods II

Third Semester (Fall – 9 Credits)

- STC 512: Data, Places, People, and Things
- STC 536: Network Publics
- STC 539: Social Search & Filtering

Fourth Semester (Spring – 9 Credits)

- STC 527: Ethics and Policies of Social Data
- STC 528: Communicating Data Science
- STC 570: Social Data Projects

Program Course Descriptions

STC 501: Theories of Data & Society (3). Surveys the development of social theory with regard to structures of knowledge and data exchange. Prepares students to engage in theory building and deploy theoretical frameworks that inform and support their social research.

STC 510: Data Wrangling (3). Provides a technical grounding in the processes of extracting, processing, and combining data for the purposes of understanding social and institutional changes. Introduces structures of the web, programming for the extraction of data, storing data effectively, and basic tools for manipulating, visualizing, summarizing, and transforming collected data.

STC 512: Data, Places, People, and Things (3). While the Web continues to be our front door to networked data, the fastest growing segment of internet traffic is produced and consumed by sensors and embedded systems. Examines the ways in which these data may be acquired and used, and how new locative technologies may be prototyped to help understand their social impact.

STC 527: Ethics and Policies of Social Data (3). Explores the applied ethics of data, and how this relates to public policy, both from a social and an institutional perspective.

STC 528: Communicating Data Science (3). Making use of data means more than just designing algorithms that work consistently. Big data is useless if it cannot be effectively communicated to those who need it, whether that is policymakers, managers, or the public at large. Participants in this course will acquire techniques that allow them to effectively communicate complex data in writing, verbally, visually, and through interfaces.

STC 536: Networked Publics (3). Traces the move from mass society and the changes this has led to in the public sphere, political participation, and systems of governance.

STC 537: Technologies of Community (3). Examines the ways in which communities form, manage themselves, and improve through the use of networked technologies.

STC 539: Social Search & Filtering (3). Traces the role of search (and search engines) in the development of networked knowledge; how this biases social access to information; and the technologies of filtering, ranking and sorting that increasingly affect social access to information.

STC 550: Computational Social Methods I (3). Provides a foundation in the structure of scholarly inquiry and research design in the context of data and society.

STC 551: Computational Social Methods II (3). Extends exposure to advanced computational methods in the practice of social science.

STC 570: Social Data Projects (3). Participants collaborate on a substantial project relating to social use of data. In the process they bring to bear their theoretical and technical skills and demonstrate professional interaction and communication skills. Participants will also produce a required public portfolio of their work during their graduate program.

Capstone Registration

Students must meet the following criteria to be eligible to enroll in and complete the STC 570 course.

- 1) Current and approved iPOS on file
- 2) Graduate GPA, Cumulative GPA, iPOS GPA must all be at 3.00
- 3) The semester of the capstone must also include STC 527 and STC 528

If a student meets the above criteria, the student can e-mail NCGradOnline@asu.edu to request an override to enroll in the course. If a student does not meet one or more criteria above they may not be able to register for STC 570 and/or may be removed from the course.

Curriculum Checklists

For curriculum checklists for your start term, please visit the [advising website](#).

Program of Study

After completion of 50% of the credit hours needed to complete this degree you will be required to submit an online interactive Program of Study (iPOS). This iPOS is a list of courses that you have taken and will take to satisfy all degree requirements to earn your MA Social Technologies degree. The iPOS is submitted online via My ASU. For support filing your iPOS, please visit [here](#). After you submit your iPOS, the Graduate Advisor and Program Director will review the courses. You can track the approval process online through your My ASU account. If you need to make changes after the iPOS is submitted and approved, it can be modified at any time.

When we evaluate your iPOS, we will look to see that you have met the program requirements listed in the advising check sheet. Prior to submitting your iPOS please make sure that it meets the following requirements:

1. All 33 credits of program coursework are included
2. For the culminating experience, non-thesis students must choose STC 570
3. Choose your program director as your chair: **Dr. Alexander Halavais**

All courses that appear on your iPOS are applied toward your MA degree and are ineligible to be applied toward a future graduate degree. As such, we recommend listing only the 33 credits required for the MA degree on your iPOS. Any additional/excess credits you have earned could theoretically be used toward a different degree program at ASU.

Advising and Student Progress

Students are responsible for keeping track of their academic progress and making decisions with regard to which classes to take. However, we do have dedicated Graduate Academic Advisors who are available to answer questions and to help you achieve your academic goals.

We have established an advising website that provides information about course offerings, policies, and additional resources for online students. To access this website please [click here](#).

If you have questions after reviewing this handbook, the ASU Graduate College Policies and Procedures, and the advising website, please reach out to our team at ncgradonline@asu.edu.

Each semester, one of our Graduate Academic Advisors will review your academic record. You may be put on academic probation or recommended for dismissal for poor academic performance, failure to meet ASU Graduate College policies or deadlines, or for a failure to demonstrate professional behavior or ethical violations.

Course Selection & Registration

It is recommended that you keep a copy of the advising checklist on the advising [website](#) and review it as you register for courses each semester.

We strongly encourage you to complete the core courses when they are offered. These courses may only be offered during certain semesters and sessions each calendar year and if you do not take them when they are offered it may significantly delay your time to degree completion.

Students can find recommended course sequences for their start term on the [MA Social Technologies Advising Website](#), under “Registration & Degree Progress” and then choosing the appropriate term of admission.

Each semester you will register for classes electronically via My ASU. [You can view the schedule of classes online here](#). To find out when classes are available and when you must register please visit the [ASU Academic Calendar](#).

Graduate students are required to maintain continuous enrollment. This means that you must be enrolled in a minimum of one credit hour of graduate level coursework each fall and spring semester. Read the full policy on page 11 of the [Graduate College Policy Manual](#).

University Resources

There are a number of resources available in the program and through the university.

New College/West Campus - Academic

- [Fletcher Library](#)
- [Graduate Writing Center](#) – in-person (all campuses) and online writing assistance and tutoring
- [Career & Professional Development Services](#) – resource for finding jobs and internships, career advising, and more; online services available.

School of Social & Behavioral Sciences

- [SAM Lab](#) – resource for receiving assistance for statistics and methodology courses and research; in-person (West campus), online, and phone appointments available.

University Services

- Student support services (e.g., [International Student Services](#), [Housing](#), [Health](#), [Counseling](#), [Disability Resources](#), [Veterans](#)).
- Business and Finance services (e.g., [parking and transit](#), [student accounts](#), [ID cards](#)).
Contact information (e.g., [Provost's Office](#), [Graduate College](#), [IT Help Office](#), [emergency services](#)).
- [Graduate Wellness Resources](#)
- [10 Best Practices in Graduate Student Well-Being](#)
- Student Rights and Responsibilities <https://eoss.asu.edu/dos/srr>
- Graduate Student Diversity Resources <https://graduate.asu.edu/current-students/enrich-your-experience/resources-and-services/diversity-resources>

ASU Library

- ASU Library now has an online tutorial version of "Library 501: What Grad Students Need to Know about the Library" workshop available for online students and anyone else for whom it might be useful. The Library 501 tutorial can be found on our tutorials page: <https://lib.asu.edu/tutorials> or at bit.ly/Library501Tutorial
- Student can see the full slate of workshop offerings here: libguides.asu.edu/grad/workshops
- Resources for ASU Online students through the ASU Library are available [here](#).

360 Life Services

- ASU Online students have access to a resource called 360 Life Services. This resource gives students access to experts who can answer financial questions, provide legal advice, offer clinical or personal care, and provide career advice 24/7. You can find this resource by clicking on the following link: <https://goto.asuonline.asu.edu/360lifeservices/>

ASU Graduate College Policies

Being a part of ASU means that all students, regardless of program, are held to the same high standards of academic integrity and excellence. It is important that all students familiarize themselves with these policies; these policies are outlined at the following website: <https://graduate.asu.edu/current-students/policies-forms-and-deadlines>.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

All graduate students are expected to make systematic progress toward completion of their degree. Students are responsible for verifying and tracking satisfactory progress policies as required by their degree program and the Graduate College. If a student fails to satisfy the requirements, the student may be dismissed from his/her program based on the academic unit's recommendation to the Graduate College. These policies are detailed on the university's Graduate College website: <https://graduate.asu.edu/current-students/policies-forms-and-deadlines>.

The MA Social Technologies program also follows the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy. The current policy can be found at: https://newcollege.asu.edu/sites/default/files/advising/documents/nc-satisfactoryacademicprogresspolicy_fall_2019_0.pdf

Student Code of Conduct

All students are expected to adhere to the Arizona Board of Regents Student Code of Conduct and university policies and procedures: <https://eoss.asu.edu/dos/srr/codeofconduct>

Students are expected to regularly check their ASU email accounts for messages from the university and New College. Students also are expected to regularly check their My ASU priority tasks for messages and holds from the university. Students are responsible for managing their tuition payments, finances and tracking university academic calendar deadlines.

Academic Integrity

New College and the MA Social Technologies program has a zero-tolerance policy toward academic dishonesty that is enforced within every course and educational activity offered or sanctioned by the school. Any allegation of academic dishonesty will be referred to the school's [Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) for review and recommendation to the Dean of the school. If any student is found to have engaged in academic dishonesty in any form – including but not limited to cheating, plagiarizing and fabricating – that student shall receive a grade of XE for the class and will be dismissed from the school. There will be no exceptions. Please refer to the [University's Academic Integrity Policy](#) for the full policy.

International students who violate academic integrity policies may be dismissed immediately. Being withdrawn from a degree program can have immediate consequences regarding visa status, and dismissed students are required to leave the country immediately per immigration and visa rules.

At the beginning of every MA Social Technologies class, each student will be given access to a copy of the full academic integrity policy, along with accompanying information on plagiarism in their course syllabus. More detailed guidance on how to avoid plagiarism and fabrication, can be found at: <https://ori.hhs.gov/avoiding-plagiarism-self-plagiarism-and-other-questionable-writing-practices-guide-ethical-writing>.

My ASU Portal

On your My ASU portal you will find information about your courses, transcripts, transportation, student success and support, finances, university policies and the academic calendar. Please take time to familiarize yourself with these areas:

Profile: Update your address, phone number, email information, or add guests, such as a parent, so they can look FERPA-protected information including grades.

My Classes: Click on the name of each course to access the corresponding Blackboard content. This is where you will see the syllabus, find links to readings and submit assignments. Take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the structure of each course.

Final Transcript: If you sent in a transcript for admission to the program before you graduated, send your final transcript with your degree posted.

Academic Integrity Module: ASU Graduate College module reviewing academic integrity expectations. Please complete as soon as possible. Please note, this module explains the university-wide policy. The New College academic integrity policy includes additions specific to our students. Please be familiar with both policies.

Academic Calendar (bottom right box): This has important dates you need to monitor, including when classes begin, last day to register or drop/add classes, tuition and fee payment deadlines, holidays, withdrawal deadlines, schedule of classes available and when to enroll.

Campus Services: This includes Health and Wellness Resources, such as health insurance, counseling, disability services; Transportation, such as parking permits, METRO Light Rail, U- Pass and campus shuttles; Student Success and Support, such as disability services, tutoring and student success centers; and Job & Career Services. Please note these job resources are university-wide and not specific to the MA Social Technologies program.