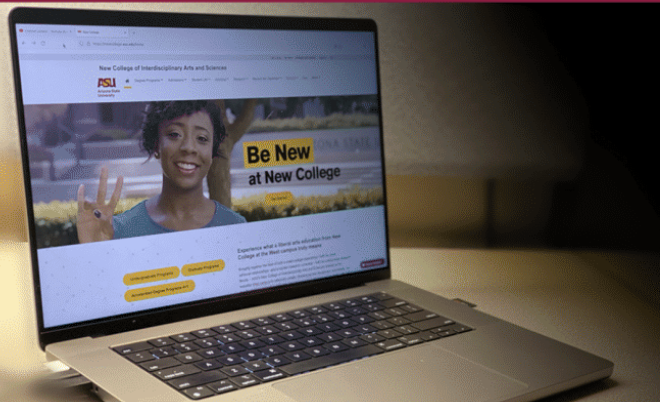


Online Handbook Social Data Science, MA



ASU **New College**
of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences
Arizona State University



Greetings!

Welcome to the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences at Arizona State University.

Your acceptance into our graduate degree program is evidence of your past academic accomplishments and your future potential. It is both an honor and an indication of the hard work and dedication you have invested into your education. Congratulations! Chances are you probably have questions, answers for most of which you will find throughout this handbook. But there are at least two questions I want to address here. First, “for how long will New College be new?” New College will always be New! That’s because New is not measured on a stopwatch or even a calendar. New is a mindset to never settle for the status quo, but instead continue to push the bounds of knowledge and understanding.

The next most-often question I receive is, “what is Interdisciplinary?” The dictionary tells us interdisciplinary involves two or more disciplines. We put that in practice in New College by building degree programs that break down the silos between traditional academic disciplines. Your studies will likely include courses offered across our four unique schools.

Please know, starting a graduate degree program is a huge next step in your life – and I want you to know that throughout your journey with New College, all of us are ready to help you through every phase. If your schedule allows, I invite you to visit our beautiful campus at any point during your studies. Come meet your faculty and advisors. I would sincerely appreciate meeting you as well. Looking ahead, when you graduate, please consider joining us in person for commencement, convocation, and our special New College reception just for online students.

We are thrilled you have chosen New College to pursue your graduate degree and we commit to being here with you every step of the way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd R. Sandrin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Todd R. Sandrin, Ph.D.

Dean, [New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences](#)

Vice Provost, [West Valley campus](#)

Professor, [School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences](#)

Senior Global Futures Scientist - [Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory](#)

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Overview

ASU Charter

ASU is a comprehensive public research university, measured not by whom we exclude, but rather by whom we include and how they succeed; advancing research and discovery of public value; and assuming fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the communities it serves.

Visit [ASU Charter, Mission and Goals](#) for more information.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences is guided by our commitment to fulfilling ASU's Charter. As a comprehensive public research university that measures itself not by whom it excludes, but by whom it includes and how they succeed; advancing research and discovery of public value; and assuming fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the communities it serves, New College supports inclusive excellence in all forms and aims to foster a sense of belonging for all its students, staff and faculty. In New College, our commitment to access means that we strive to create an educational and work environment that is free from discrimination. Our unit and the University are deeply committed to building excellence, enhancing access, and having an impact on our communities, state, nation, and the world. This is actualized by our faculty and staff who engage in the advancement of knowledge with the most inclusive understanding possible of the issues that are addressed through our scholarly activities.

Find more information at [Graduate Student Diversity Resources](#); [Center for the Study of Race and Democracy](#)

Welcome

Welcome to the Social Data Science program in the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences at Arizona State University. We are truly excited for you to join us. Our program, in its current instantiation, is still young, and you join a small cohort of graduate students and faculty who are passionate about inventing the next chapter in social data science.

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 in society. Rather than just trying to adapt to the new opportunities and threats that big data brings, this means you will be 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 who are prepared to help build a future with opportunities for all.

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.

Arizona State University comprises sixteen colleges and schools spread across four campuses in the Phoenix, Arizona metropolitan area. The MA program in Social Data Science is offered by the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, which is part of the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, and is housed on [ASU's West Valley Campus](#) in Phoenix, AZ and Online.

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](#).

Welcome aboard!

Alexander Halavais

Graduate Director, Master of Arts in Social Data Science

Quick Facts

Program location: Online

Start terms (online): Fall A, Spring A

Time to completion: 24 Months (no summers)

Schedule: Asynchronous

Student Support & Academic Advising

The New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences has a team of Academic Success Advisors available to support you throughout your graduate career. Academic Success Advisors are available weekdays from 8 am - 5 pm MST. Contact us at 602-543-3000 or email NCGradOnline@asu.edu.

Current students can schedule an appointment [here](#).

Although we typically provide same day responses, please allow up to 2 business days for an email response. If you have questions that are better suited for a verbal conversation please schedule an appointment with an Academic Success Advisor via your My ASU page.

Program Handbook Archives

To review archived handbooks, please visit [New College Graduate Handbook Archives](#)

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. You can familiarize yourself [with these resources here](#).

Student Responsibility

As a graduate student, you're responsible for reviewing and adhering to all university, college, and graduate college policies and procedures.

- Review this program handbook and communicate with your academic success team about any questions.
- Review your [program website](#) to ensure you have information related to course registration and course sequencing.
- Check your ASU email daily and review all messages from your New College Graduate Student Services team.
- Monitor your My ASU account regarding your status, holds, action items and other important information to ensure you're on track for your degree.

Admissions

Application Requirements & Deadlines

Admissions to the MA Social Data Science – Online is offered for the Fall A (August), Spring A (January). Completed admission files are reviewed on a rolling basis. Admission decisions are typically made within five business days. Applicants are encouraged to apply early and have all application materials on file with ASU on or before any posted deadlines.

The Graduate College at ASU maintains a minimum requirement of admission to master's, certificate and doctoral programs. These minimum requirements can be reviewed on the [ASU Graduate Admission](#) site. Each degree program also establishes specific admission requirements. Please visit [ASU Degree Search](#) for details on application requirements. Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences.

Application deadlines for online New College graduate degree programs can be found online [here](#).

Admissions Contact Information:

Future Students: EnrollmentOnline@asu.edu

Current Applicants: ncgradadmissions.online@asu.edu

Investment and Funding

Tuition and Fees

All amounts shown in the Tuition and Fees Schedules or in other University publications or web pages represent tuition and fees as currently approved. However, Arizona State University reserves the right to increase or modify tuition and fees without prior notice, upon approval by the Arizona Board of Regents or as otherwise consistent with Board policy and to make such modifications applicable to students enrolled at ASU at that time as well as to incoming students.

To view current year tuition, program fees, other fees, please visit the [Tuition and Cost Calculator](#).

To view historical information about tuition and fees, please visit [Tuition and Fees Schedule](#).

Financial Aid and Scholarship Services

For information on investing in your graduate degree visit [Financial Aid and Scholarship Services](#) online.

Current or incoming ASU Online students can call 24/7 at 855-278-5080.

Program Requirements

Degree Requirements

The MA Social Data Science – requires 30 credit hours including the required capstone course (SDS 570)

Visit [ASU Degree Search](#) for more information.

Course Descriptions

Required Core (18 credit hours):

SDS 501: Theories of Data and 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.

SDS 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.

SDS 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.

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

SDS 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.

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

Elective Courses (9 credit hours – Offerings May Vary)

CAS 501: Fundamentals of Complex Systems Science: Evolution (3): The enormous diversity of biological, social and technological systems is the product of evolution. As Darwin put it poetically: 'There is grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers, having been originally breathed by the Creator into a few forms or into one; and that, whilst this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been and are being evolved.' In short, complexity is the product of evolutionary processes. This, in turn, implies that understanding complexity requires us to understand its evolutionary origins. This course is a comprehensive introduction to the evolutionary history of complex systems and the principles and mechanisms that guide this dynamic. Covers the consequences of evolutionary history of complex systems,

such as vulnerability to failure or limits of the potential of these systems to change and adapt.

CAS 503: Fundamentals of Complex Systems Science: Collectives (3): From neurons in a brain to fish in a school to people in an economy, collectives are all around us. These are complex systems in which we understand in some detail how the individual components behave and interact, but the behavior we are interested in is at the larger scale of the aggregate. The behavior of systems like these is challenging to predict and understand largely due to the sheer number of interacting components, as well as the unintuitive way that contributions from individuals scale up to have large collective effects. Complex systems science has developed an array of conceptual tools to help understand collective behavior. Explores these foundational concepts, including emergence, scaling laws, dynamical modes and coarse-graining. Uses these tools to de-mystify powerful aggregate-scale effects, from impressive feats of swarm intelligence to potentially harmful instabilities and hysteresis.

CAS 520: Agent-Based Modeling (3): Agent-based modeling is a method to study the macro-level consequences of micro-level interactions of agents representing individuals, households, firms or other type of actors. Agent-based modeling is used to study the dynamics of complex adaptive systems across different domain areas. Covers the basics of agent-based modeling including programming computer simulations and how this method is used to study complex adaptive systems in different application areas. Examines the method for scientific research, especially the various ways of doing model analysis. Students perform individual assignments.

CAS 521: Methods for Complex Systems Science: Network Analysis (3): Network science within the framework of complex adaptive systems. Begins with general introductions to different kinds of networks and their basic network properties. Then progresses to the mathematics and algorithms of network analysis while learning about computational feasibility and the importance of random graph comparisons. Each week students are responsible for readings and a write-up of that week's topics. These write-ups help build toward the final assignment incorporating all topics covered in this class. Upon completion, students should feel confident incorporating networks and their associated complexity into their research and worldview.

PSY 506: Advanced Cognitive Science (3): Examines cognition from the varied perspectives of philosophy, linguistics, psychology, computer science (artificial intelligence) and neuroscience.

SOC 585: Sociological Theory (3): Analyzes major sociological theories, from classical to contemporary.

SST 520: Learning Technologies in Native Education (3): As the Internet and digital devices become more accessible in Indian country, educators are increasingly developing digital systems for formal and informal learning environments. From distance learning systems to digital language learning and apps for informal learning, this course reviews types of educational technologies in different American Indian and Indigenous educational settings, highlighting the relationship among technical affordances,

pedagogical approaches, and social impacts. Students (1) understand how technical affordances shape learning in face-to-face and online environments; (2) describe the relationship between digital learning tools and curricular and programmatic objectives; and (3) describe and propose the basic limitations and possibilities of types of educational technologies for specific American Indian and Indigenous educational settings.

SDS 598: Special Topics (3):

TWC 514: Visualizing Data and Information (3): Covers how to process data and information in ways that help discover what's important about the information and what the clearest way is to communicate that information. Covers how to manage data and use a variety of software tools to communicate patterns and tell visual stories, as well as how to make choices in visualization style in ways that will assist an audience to effectively interact with and process the information.

TWC 544: User Experience (3): Explores principles, techniques and tools of user experience (UX), including user and task analysis, user-centered design and usability testing.

Culminating Experience (3 credit hours):

SDS 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 also produce a public portfolio of their work during their graduate program.

Culminating Experience

Summary of Culminating Experience

The MA Social Data Science (Online) requires SDS 570 Social Data Projects, 3 credit hours to satisfy the culminating experience requirement. 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 Course Eligibility and Registration

The capstone course is completed in a student's final semester of study. To be eligible for an override to enroll in the culminating experience a student must:

- Have an approved iPOS with no course errors
- Resolve all items listed under Priority Tasks affecting registration in the My ASU Portal
- Meet the minimum 3.00 GPA in each Plan of Study GPA, Overall Graduate GPA, Cumulative GPA.
 - If one or more of the GPAs is below the required minimum and can increase to a 3.00 with successful completion of the capstone, registration will be permitted.
- If a student becomes ineligible before the start of the culminating experience they will be removed from the course by New College Graduate Student Services.

Prior to registration a student who is issued an override will receive an email with the appropriate section line number. If a student does not meet eligibility requirements as outlined above they will need to contact NCGradOnline@asu.edu.

Capstone Course Completion

All MA Social Data Science students must earn a "B" or better in SDS 570 Social Data Projects.

The MA Social Data Science program allows students a maximum of two graded attempts (letter grade A-E). Students who do not achieve a "B" or better in the second attempt will be recommended for dismissal from the program.

Grades of Incomplete "I" or Withdrawal "W" in SDS 570 do not indicate satisfactory academic progress. A student with three or more earned "I" or "W" grades (or a combination of "I" and "W" grades) may be recommended for dismissal.

Graduation Requirements

Congratulations on nearing the completion of your master's degree. There are a few administrative items that need your attention:

- 1) Ensure you have an approved and up-to-date iPOS on file.
- 2) [Apply for graduation](#) via My ASU

Applying for graduation and registering to attend in-person graduation ceremonies are separate but related issues. Applying and paying your graduation fee ensures that your degree will be processed after coursework is complete and certification of your degree is issued. Registering for attendance at ceremonies ensures that seating will be made available for you and your guests for the event(s) you will attend. It also ensures tickets will be reserved for those events that require tickets.

Ceremonies

There are a variety of opportunities to celebrate this milestone. Two of the most popular ceremonies are Commencement (ASU ceremony) and Convocation (College ceremony).

Commencement: Commencement ceremonies are the official graduation events for the university. During the university's graduate Commencement, President Crow confers degrees on all ASU graduate students (master's and doctoral candidates).

- **Master's degree candidates** will be hooded at Graduate Commencement, but will **NOT** be called individually to cross the stage.
- **Doctoral candidates** will be hooded at Graduate Commencement, have their names called and cross the stage individually to receive congratulations.

Convocation: Convocation ceremonies celebrate graduating New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences students and their achievements. During Convocation, New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences **graduates are individually recognized** for their academic achievement, including crossing the stage while their name is read.

Register to Attend an Event

All ASU graduation ceremonies require reservations (RSVPs) from graduating students who wish to participate. Attendance is not mandatory or you may elect to attend one or more ceremonies.

[Register to Attend Commencement](#)

[Register to Attend New College Convocation](#)

Summer graduates completing coursework in August may opt to participate in ceremonies the May prior to course completion or the December following course completion.

Program Leadership & Faculty

Program Director



Dr. Nicholas Proferes is the interim Program Director for the online MS in Social Data Science program. More information on Dr. Proferes is [available here](#).

Program Faculty

The Arizona State University faculty is at the forefront nationally in advancing research and discovery. Our more than 4,700 faculty members inspire new ways of thinking, innovating and solving problems socially, culturally and economically in our region and in the international community.

We aspire to create an accessible academic experience and attract faculty not bound by traditional disciplinary distinctions, but who embrace an inclusive, collaborative and entrepreneurial environment defined by excellence and impact.

Social & Behavioral Sciences Faculty information can be found [here](#).

Degree Progress

Registration and Course Selection

Students will register for classes each semester via My ASU and use their course sequence or approved iPOS as a guide for registration. The schedule of classes is available [here](#).

The recommended course sequence varies slightly for each admit term and can be viewed online at the MA Social Data Science (Online) [advising website](#). It is important to consider your personal and professional commitments when you select a completion timeline. Summer registration may be required for students based on the required course sequence.

Continuous Enrollment Policy

To remain active at ASU graduate students must be continuously registered for a minimum of 1 graduate credit hour in every fall and spring semester.

Students who fail to enroll in any semester (not including summer) will be dropped automatically by the ASU Graduate College and have to re-apply and be re-admitted to continue working towards the degree.

Please review the Registration and Course Selection above. Depending on course availability, some programs may require summer registration.

Drop/Add Withdrawal

The [ASU Academic Calendar](#) lists specific dates and deadlines for each semester. Exceptions to published dates are rare and made on a case-by-case basis.

Request Leave of Absence

Students can apply for a formal waiver of the continuous enrollment requirement or a leave of absence (up to 2 semesters). These must be submitted via the iPOS in My ASU and approved by the student success team, program director, and the Graduate College prior to the semester for which the waiver or leave is requested.

Medical or Compassionate Withdrawal

A [medical or compassionate withdrawal request](#) may be made in extraordinary cases in which serious illness or injury (medical) or another extraordinary personal situation such as a death in the family (compassionate) prevents a student from continuing their classes and incompletes or other arrangements with the instructors are not possible.

For information on the New College Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal policy and procedures, students should visit <https://newcollege.asu.edu/advising/medical-compassionate-withdrawal>.

Interactive Plan of Study (iPOS)

What is the Interactive Plan of Study (iPOS)?

The Interactive Plan of Study (iPOS) functions as an agreement between the student, the academic unit, and the ASU Graduate College. It will support you as you make progress toward your degree requirements. ([Learn More](#))

The iPOS allows you to plan for your course load, can guide registration each term, and provided anticipated completion timeline.

How do I select courses for my iPOS?

At the time of admission students in the MA Social Data Science (Online) program are provided with a recommended sequence of courses that are planned out for 18-month completion. It is expected that students take coursework in Fall, Spring, and Summer.

The recommended course sequence varies slightly for each admit term and can be viewed online at the MA Social Data Science (Online) [advising website](#). It is important to consider your personal and professional commitments when you select a completion timeline.

Failure to follow the provided course sequence may delay time to degree completion. It is the responsibility of the student to communicate with the academic success team at ncgradonline@asu.edu if there are any challenges with the assigned course sequence.

How to create an iPOS

To access the iPOS: Login to [My ASU](#). From the My Programs box, under the Programs tab, select iPOS. Select Graduate Interactive Plan of Study (iPOS). Note: Pop up blockers may need to be turned off.

You will find instructions for submitting the iPOS in the downloadable [how-to guide](#).

All of the information you need to submit your iPOS including course requirements by semester, faculty advisor, and anticipated graduation term are available on the course sequence on [advising website](#).

When do I file my iPOS?

We encourage students to file their iPOS as soon as possible (the iPOS is available to students 30 days prior to the start of their first semester). It helps our team to monitor progress and provides you with the information you need for registration each term.

An advising hold will be placed on your account if you do not have your iPOS filed by the end of your first semester.

Can I update my iPOS?

Yes! Once approved, the iPOS can be updated to accommodate changings in your course selection.

Academic Progress

Satisfactory Academic Progress

This policy applies to all graduate students in the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences. All graduate students are expected to make systematic progress toward the completion of their degree. In order to remain in good standing in the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences (NCIAS), students must maintain satisfactory academic progress. This document sets forth the standards for “satisfactory academic progress” and “good standing” and explains the consequences of not meeting these standards.

Review the complete policy and performance requirements [here](#).

Academic (grade) Grievance Policy

The New College of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences requires that any student seeking to appeal a grade must follow the Academic (grade) Grievance Policy.

Review the complete policy and steps located in the “Graduate policies” section of the New College Academic Catalog policies located [here](#).

Student Code of Conduct and Academic Integrity

Student Code of Conduct

All students are expected to adhere to the [Arizona Board of Regents Student Code of Conduct](#).

Academic Integrity

The highest standards of [academic integrity](#) and compliance with the university’s [Student Code of Conduct](#) and [Academic Integrity Student Policy](#) are expected of all graduate students in academic coursework and research activities. The failure of any graduate student to uphold these standards may result in serious consequences including suspension or expulsion from the university and/or other sanctions as specified in the academic integrity policies of individual colleges as well as the university.

For more information please visit: the [Graduate College’s Policies, Forms, and Deadlines](#) and [Maintaining Academic and Research Integrity](#).

Resources

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

Academic and Professional Services

- [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 the tutorials page under "[Other Tutorials](#)".
- [Career & Professional Development Services](#) – resource for finding jobs and internships, career advising, and more; online services available.
- Resources for ASU Online students through the ASU Library are available [here](#).

Student Support Services

- [Counseling](#)
 - [Graduate Student Wellness Resources](#)
 - [Graduate Student Wellbeing](#)
 - [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
- [Educational Outreach & Student Services \(Dean of Students Office\)](#)
- [Graduate Student Diversity Resources](#)
- [Graduate Academic Support Services](#) – in-person (all campuses) and online, no-cost writing and statistics tutoring (most services are free except for special sessions, refer to the website for more details).
- [Health](#)
- [ID Cards](#)
- [International Student Services Center \(ISSC\)](#)
- [Sexual Violence Awareness, Prevention and Response](#) (Title IX)
- [Statistics and Methods \(SAM\) Lab](#)
- [Student Accessibility and Inclusive Learning Services \(SAILS\)](#)
- [Student Rights and Responsibilities](#)
- [Veterans](#)

University Contact Information

- [Emergency Services](#)
- [Graduate College](#)
- [GPSA Outreach](#)
- [Provost's Office](#)
- [Student Business Services](#)
- [University Technology Office/IT Help](#)



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