A Master of Science Degree in Computational Analysis and Public Policy

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Need for the program

• Demand for individuals with information technology skills in the public sector
  – CIO, CDO, CTO
  – Analysts/Researchers
  – Consultants on IT Projects
  – At the municipal, state and federal level
• Many programs teaching data science
• None that we know of that combine substantive and technical in a two-year degree
Collaboration

• Approved by University Senate in Spring 2013
• Joint program with the Harris School of Public Policy Studies and the Department of Computer Science (Physical Sciences Division)
• Harris provides administrative support
• Includes participation from the Computation Institute, particularly Urban Center for Computation and Data, which brings to gather social scientists and computer scientists to conduct research
• Chris Berry, Harris faculty lead and Anne Rogers, CS faculty lead
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<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<td><strong>Year 1</strong></td>
<td>Statistics I [H]</td>
<td>Statistics II</td>
<td>Introduction to Data Analytics [CS] (new)</td>
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<td>Computer Science with</td>
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<td>Applications 1 [CS]</td>
<td>Applications 2 [CS]</td>
<td>Applications 3 [CS]</td>
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<td>Microeconomics I [H]</td>
<td>Microeconomics II [H]</td>
<td>Integrative Seminar</td>
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<td><strong>Summer</strong></td>
<td>Internship</td>
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<td><strong>Year 2</strong></td>
<td>Political Economy for Public Policy [H]</td>
<td>Decisions and Organizations [H]</td>
<td>Elective</td>
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<td>Databases [CS]</td>
<td>Elective</td>
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<td>Curricular path course</td>
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Computer Science

• Programming sequence, the CAPP students will have their own Ph.D. student-TA to address their needs
• An assessment will be made at the beginning of the school year, in case student has extensive programming experience
Specialization

• In the second year, we will encourage students to concentrate in a substantive area of public policy or a methodological area.

  — Energy, Education, Child and Family Policy ...

    OR

  — Survey methods, Advanced Data Analytics, Information Policy (Privacy)
Internship

• One key to integrating learning from the statistics/econometrics and the data analytics classes
• Ability to experience practical challenges
• Range of potential placements:
  – Government (city, county, state, federal)
  – Non-profits
  – Private firms working with public sector
Seminar

• Address the issues of the different cultures/approaches/context/jargon in social sciences and computer science
• Speakers from policy settings
• Faculty utilizing computational methods to address public policy issues
Admissions

• Initially had a target of 5-10 students
• Received 100+ applications and still receiving them
• Accepted 25 students
• High yield
More information

- [http://capp.sites.uchicago.edu/](http://capp.sites.uchicago.edu/)

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