

UC San Diego
HALICIOĞLU DATA SCIENCE INSTITUTE

HDSI MS **STUDENT HANDBOOK** **2025-2026**



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ABOUT HDSI

History

The Halicioğlu Data Science Institute (HDSI) was co-founded in June 2018 by Dr. Rajesh Gupta and Dr. Jeffrey Elman. In just its first year, HDSI became the largest data science undergraduate program in the nation. In 2022, HDSI classes began for the first graduate students in the M.S, PhD, and online MDS programs. In 2024, HDSI and the San Diego Supercomputer Center (SDSC) joined together to create the School of Computing, Information, and Data Science (SCIDS). <https://scids.ucsd.edu/>

Mission

The mission of the Halicioğlu Data Science Institute (HDSI) is to lay the groundwork for the scientific foundations of this emerging discipline, develop new methods and infrastructure, and train students, faculty and industry partners to use data science in ways that will allow them to solve some of the world's most pressing problems. We serve as a unique, collaborative and innovative academic unit across multiple disciplines at UC San Diego.

HDSI Directory

Faculty - <https://datascience.ucsd.edu/faculty/>

Administrative Staff - <https://datascience.ucsd.edu/administration/>

Fellows - <https://datascience.ucsd.edu/fellows/>

Directory Search - <https://itsweb.ucsd.edu/directory/search>

Research Areas

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

At HDSI we work on advancing theoretical foundations and applications of ML and AI across a broad range of disciplines. We aim to break disciplinary boundaries and foster collaboration between AI/ML researchers and the broader data science community.

Subareas:

- ❖ *Natural Language Processing*
- ❖ *Computer Vision*

- ❖ *Robotics*
- ❖ *Deep Learning*
- ❖ *Unsupervised Learning and Data Mining*
- ❖ *Planning*
- ❖ *Reinforcement Learning and Sequential Decision Making*
- ❖ *Statistical Learning Theory*
- ❖ *Graphical Models and Inference*
- ❖ *Control and Dynamic Systems*

Biomedical Data Science

Advancing methods, technologies, and applications for understanding biological systems, transforming medicine and improving health. We address real-world complex data arising from multiple sources and spanning multiple scales. Prominent subareas include computational neuroscience, omics, biomedicine and health, and biostatistics.

Data Infrastructure and Systems

We study principles, techniques, and tools for acquiring, managing, and analyzing large and complex datasets throughout their whole lifecycle. We build and deploy software systems and software-hardware integrated systems to aid data-driven decision making and responsible data science in both the digital and the physical worlds.

Sub-areas:

- ❖ *Data Management*
- ❖ *Data Visualization*
- ❖ *Systems for Machine Learning*
- ❖ *Data Mining Infrastructure*
- ❖ *Cloud and Cyberinfrastructure*
- ❖ *IoT and Cyberphysical systems*

Data Science for Scientific Discovery

HDSI is advancing basic science through the collection, annotation, exploration and synthesis of high-dimensional, multimodal data. This is inclusive of classic scientific experimentation, complemented by the use of large extant datasets, all done under the rigorous process of proper collection, processing, and analysis of data.

Data and Society

This area concerns itself with the intersection of data science and social issues, with two broad overlapping subgroups. One focuses on the impacts of data on society and approaches to mitigate negative impacts, and the other focuses on the use of data to study society. The first subgroup includes studies of issues like fairness, transparency, and accountability in data science, data ethics, data policy, social studies of data, the sustainability of data infrastructures, and applications of privacy-preserving approaches. The second group includes computational social science, digital humanities, policy evaluation, social networks and media, and socio-environmental science.

Theoretical Foundations of Data Science

This HDSI area focuses on establishing the mathematical and theoretical foundation of data science, understanding the fundamental limits of data acquisition, data processing, modeling, and inference from data. This group aims to develop efficient and effective algorithms for all aspects of data analysis with rigorous guarantees.

Subareas:

- ❖ *Algorithms*
- ❖ *Optimization*
- ❖ *Theoretical Computer Science*
- ❖ *Computing and Statistics*
- ❖ *Geometry and Topology*
- ❖ *Applied Harmonic Analysis*
- ❖ *Information Theory*
- ❖ *Learning Theory*
- ❖ *Economics and Game Theory*

Statistics

Statistics is the discipline of gathering and analyzing data. It has developed into subareas that are broadly defined by data type, and its methods are often motivated by scientific problems of contemporary interest, such as in genetics, functional MRI, climatology, epidemiology, clinical trials, finance, and more.

Sub-areas

- ❖ *Time series and random fields*
- ❖ *Asymptotic theory*
- ❖ *Decision theory*
- ❖ *Nonparametric inference*
- ❖ *Resampling-based inference*
- ❖ *Geometric statistics*
- ❖ *Cluster analysis*
 - ❖ *Multiple testing*
 - ❖ *Functional and longitudinal data analysis*
 - ❖ *Robust statistics*
 - ❖ *Survival analysis*
 - ❖ *Design of experiments*

HDSI Academic Programs

[PhD](#)

[MS](#)

[OMDS](#)

GRADUATE STUDENT POLICIES

General Conduct

Principles of Community

The University of California, San Diego is dedicated to learning, teaching, and serving society through education, research, and public service. Our international reputation for excellence is due in large part to the cooperative and entrepreneurial nature of the UC San Diego community. UC San Diego faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to be creative and are rewarded for individual as well as collaborative achievements.

To foster the best possible working and learning environment, UC San Diego strives to maintain a climate of fairness, cooperation, and professionalism. These principles of community are vital to the success of the University and the well-being of its constituents. UC San Diego faculty, staff, and students are expected to practice these basic principles as individuals and in groups.

- We value each member of the UC San Diego community for his or her individual and unique talents and applaud all efforts to enhance the quality of campus life. We recognize that each individual's effort is vital to achieving the goals of the University.
- We affirm each individual's right to dignity and strive to maintain a climate of justice marked by mutual respect for each other.
- We value the cultural diversity of UC San Diego because it enriches our lives and the University. We celebrate this diversity and support respect for all cultures, by both individuals and the University as a whole.
- We are a university that adapts responsibly to cultural differences among the faculty, staff, students, and community.
- We acknowledge that our society carries historical and divisive biases based on race, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion, and political beliefs. Therefore, we seek to foster understanding and tolerance among individuals and groups, and we promote awareness through education and constructive strategies for resolving conflict.
- We reject acts of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion, and political beliefs, and, we will confront and appropriately respond to such acts.
- We affirm the right to freedom of expression at UC San Diego. We promote open expression of our individuality and our diversity within the bounds of courtesy, sensitivity, confidentiality, and respect.
- We are committed to the highest standards of civility and decency toward all. We are committed to promoting and supporting a community where all people can work and learn together in an atmosphere free of abusive or demeaning treatment.

- We are committed to the enforcement of policies that promote the fulfillment of these principles.

We represent diverse races, creeds, cultures, and social affiliations coming together for the good of the University and those communities we serve. By working together as members of the UC San Diego community, we can enhance the excellence of our institution.

Academic Integrity

General Expectations

Academic integrity means students approach their academic endeavors at UC San Diego honestly, respectfully, responsibly, truthfully, and fairly. HDSI works closely with the Academic Integrity Office to ensure the quality of teaching and learning at UC San Diego remains exceptional. All members of the HDSI community have a responsibility to ensure the highest level of integrity in our academic, social, and professional practices. Ethical behavior is core to our values both as a learning community and as a professional organization. This behavior impacts our stakeholders, our community, and our world.

The UC San Diego Policy on Integrity of Scholarship states that integrity of scholarship is essential for an academic community. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor this principle and in so doing protect the validity of its intellectual work. For students, this means that all academic work will be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind. Instructors, for their part, will exercise care in planning and supervising academic work, so that honest effort will be upheld. Students are expected to complete each course in compliance with the instructor's standards.

- No student shall engage in any activity that involves attempting to receive a grade by means other than honest effort; for example:
 - No student shall knowingly procure, provide, or accept any unauthorized material that contains questions or answers to any examination or assignment to be given at a subsequent time.
 - No student shall complete, in part or in total, any examination or assignment for another person.
 - No student shall knowingly allow any examination or assignment to be completed, in part or in total, for the student by another person.
 - No student shall plagiarize or copy the work of another person and submit it as their own work.
 - No student shall employ aids excluded by the instructor in undertaking course work or in completing any exam or assignment.
 - No student shall alter graded class assignments or examinations and then resubmit them for re-grading.
 - No student shall submit substantially the same material in more than one course without prior authorization.
 - A student acting in the capacity of an instructional assistant (IA), a category including but not limited to teaching assistants, readers, and tutors, has a special responsibility to

safeguard the integrity of scholarship. In this role, the student functions as an apprentice instructor, under the tutelage of the responsible instructor. An IA shall equitably grade student work in the manner agreed upon with the course instructor.

- An IA shall not make any unauthorized material related to tests, exams, homework, etc., available to any student.

The complete [UC San Diego Policy on Integrity of Scholarship](#) can be viewed [here](#).

Copyright

Copying and/or distribution of copyrighted works is an infringement on the owner's copyright and is illegal. Any use of duplicating facilities or computers by students, faculty, or staff for duplication of copyrighted works is subject to disciplinary action, including expulsion from the university, as well as those civil remedies and criminal penalties provided by federal law. For more information, visit the [UC Copyright Education Web Site](#).

Plagiarism

The most common form of cheating is plagiarism. UC San Diego professors use TurnItIn software to ensure students do not submit plagiarized work. A missing reference indicated by "Error! Reference source not found" is the most common type of plagiarism. Students are encouraged to use this software prior to submission to ensure they do not mistakenly plagiarize someone else's work or work that they have previously turned in. In addition to the UC San Diego Policy on Integrity of Scholarship, HDSI follows the Office of Academic Integrity process when a student is suspected of plagiarizing, as it is a form of cheating:

- The Instructor notifies the Graduate Program Advisor of the allegation.
- The Instructor may file an intent to report.
- The Instructor may ask for a meeting with the student.
- The Instructor submits an allegation report to the AI Office.
- The AI Office initiates the appropriate process.
- The Appropriate Administrative Authority holds a resolution meeting with the student.
- Sanctions are assigned.
- The Instructor submits the academic sanction.
- The student has the right to appeal.

Illegal Downloads

First Violation:

1. Student's network connection is blocked temporarily in case the computer has been compromised.
2. Student is required to bring in the computer to the UC San Diego Academic Computing and Media Services (ACMS) office for a security scan.
3. Student must attend a one-hour presentation on file sharing and copyright law within one month.
4. Student is required to sign an agreement to stop illegal file sharing.

Second Violation:

1. Student's network connection is blocked.
2. Case is referred to the Office of Student Conduct and goes on the student's disciplinary record
3. Student must meet with a School Dean or Assistant Dean about the violation.
4. Student is required to bring in the computer to ACMS for a security scan.
5. Student must meet with the ACMS Help Desk Manager.
6. Student is subject to disciplinary sanctions (probation, monetary fine, community service).

Third Violation:

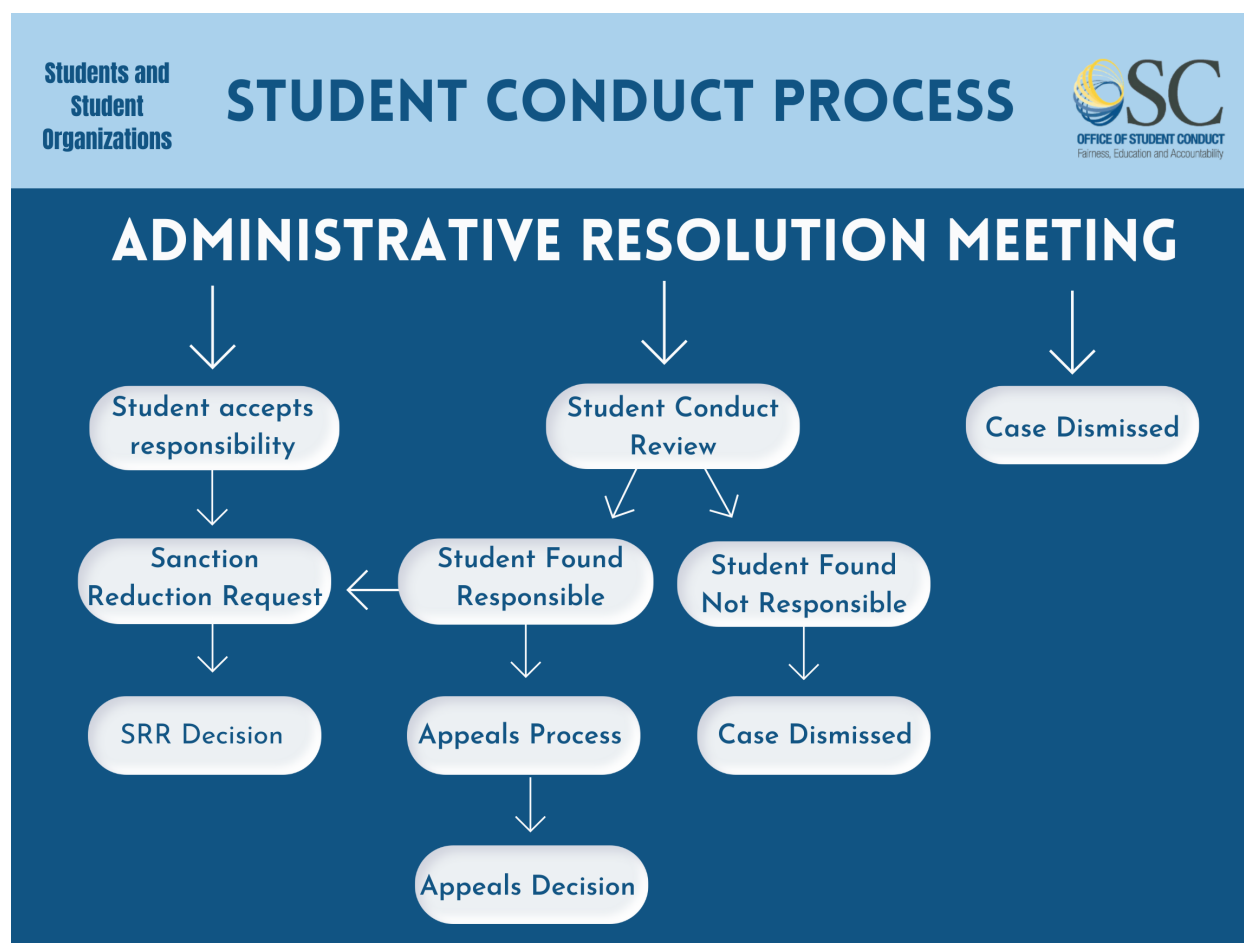
1. Student's network privileges are permanently revoked unless significant mitigating circumstances are present.
2. Student is referred to the Office of Student Conduct again for further action under the Student Conduct Code and may be subject to additional and more serious sanctions (i.e. suspension and/or additional fines).
3. The case is added to the student's disciplinary record.

Non-Confidential Reporting Options		
Student Conduct Reviews and resolves reports of non-academic misconduct. 858-534-6225 studentconduct.ucsd.edu INCIDENT REPORT FORM	Office for the Prevention of Harassment & Discrimination (OPHD) Receives reports of allegations of discrimination and harassment, including sexual violence and harassment. 858-534-8298 OPHD.UCSD.EDU	Police Conducts patrol, investigation, crime prevention education, responds to emergencies. 858-534-4357 (non-emergency), 9-1-1 (emergency) POLICE.UCSD.EDU

Confidential Resources 		
CARE at SARC CARE at the Sexual Assault Resource Center provides free & confidential services for those impacted by sexual violence.	Ombuds Confidential, neutral and informal dispute resolution services. 858-534-0777	SLS Student Legal Services (SLS) provides free, confidential counseling on legal topics for individuals and groups.

838-534-5793		858-534-4374
CARE.UCSD.EDU	OMBUDS.UCSD.EDU	SLS.UCSD.EDU

[Student Conduct Process Flow Chart \(🔗\)](#)



Student Conduct Process

Student gets an Administrative Resolution Meeting (ARM) Letter and attends ARM*

- **Outcome 1:** As a result of the meeting, the Student Conduct Officer (SCO) finds there is a preponderance of evidence that the student violated the Standards of Conduct AND the student

accepts responsibility. The student is found responsible and is assigned the appropriate sanctions.

- The student can appeal the outcome of their case or submit a Sanctions Reduction Request. This request must be submitted to the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) within 10 days of receiving their Administrative Resolution Summary letter.
- **Outcome 2:** As a result of the meeting, the SCO finds there is a preponderance of evidence that the student violated the Standards of Conduct BUT the student does not accept responsibility. The SCO will refer the case to a Student Conduct Review for the Office of Student Conduct to coordinate.
 - If found responsible, the student can appeal the outcome of their case or submit a Sanctions Reduction Request. This request must be submitted to the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) within 10 days of receiving their Administrative Resolution Summary letter.
- **Outcome 3:** As a result of the meeting, the SCO does not find that there is a preponderance of evidence, the case is then dismissed.

*If the student does not respond to the first ARM letter, they will be sent a second and final notice. If a student does not schedule or attend their ARM, their case will be adjudicated by the Student Conduct Officer, without the benefit of the student's input, using the information available to them.

For more information, please visit the Policies, Process and Procedures page.

Download a three-page PDF version of this flow chart with its accompanying definitions and descriptions, and read frequently asked questions about the student conduct process.

Reporting Misconduct ()

Any member of the campus, including those directly affiliated with an organization, may report an organization or its members for alleged violations of the University Standards of Conduct. Examples include hazing, battery/assault, health & safety, alcohol, discrimination & harassment, and sexual misconduct. UC San Diego may extend jurisdiction off-campus for misconduct that has occurred.

The university takes allegations seriously and will review all reports for appropriate next steps. In determining the best next steps, the University will weigh the wishes of the reporting or affected parties along with the seriousness of the alleged violations and the health and safety of the campus community. Individuals are encouraged to provide as much information as possible. While anonymous reports, or reports with limited information will be reviewed, the University may be limited in its ability to respond as these reports may not contain sufficient detail to enable the University to engage in a resolution process.

The following resources are available to individuals looking to file a report of an incident or discuss reporting options with a University Official.

When reporting an incident:

- Indicate who was involved, what happened, and when and where it occurred.

- Supply as much detail as possible.
- Provide your name, phone number, and e-mail address.
- Provide the contact information of any witnesses.
- You may file an anonymous report, but you should know that such a report can make an investigation more difficult and sometimes unsuccessful.

More details about Student Accountability, Growth and Education can be found at <https://sage.ucsd.edu/>

MS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

General Requirements

The Master of Science in Data Science's formal courses are structured as a total of twelve (12) 4-unit courses grouped into: Foundational (Group A), Core (Group B), and Elective requirements (Group C). These course requirements are intended to ensure that students are exposed to (A) fundamental concepts and tools (B) advanced, up-to-date views in topics central to Data Science for all students and (C) a deep understanding of current research or applications in Data Science.

Students can receive credit for up to four Group A: Introductory Courses. These courses seek to provide five critical foundational knowledge and skills that each student graduating from the master's program is expected to receive at a graduate level: programming skills, data organization and methods skills, numerical linear algebra, multivariate calculus, probability and statistics, and optimization.

Students must take a minimum of 6 Group B: Core Courses. These courses build upon foundational courses. All students must take three required core courses (DSC 240: Machine Learning, DSC 241: Statistical Models, and DSC 260: Data Ethics and Fairness) and at least three additional Group B Core courses.

Students' remaining course credit requirements may be from Group C: Elective Courses. These courses include research topics DSC 291 courses, DSC 299 courses, listed Group C courses, or they can be approved graduate courses from other departments.

Thesis Requirements

The Plan I: Thesis Option: Students must take a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 12 units of DSC 299 (Thesis Research) which can also be used to meet Group C requirements. The student will perform thesis research under the guidance of a thesis advisor and a thesis committee consisting of at least three members. The Master thesis produced by the student must be approved by the committee. It is required that at least two members of the committee are members of the HDSI faculty council; one of the three committee members can be an HDSI industry fellow with an adjunct appointment or a faculty member drawn from another department or division. Chair of the committee shall be appointed by the Graduate program committee. Alternatively, an industry fellow may be requested to serve as the fourth member

of the committee. The committee must be approved by the Graduate Division by the end of the fourth quarter in the MS program.

Please visit [GEPA's webpage](#) to learn more about the thesis submission, manual, and template.

Students should declare their intention to pursue the thesis option at least two quarters prior to their intended defense date. For example, if a student intends to defend in SP26, then they should declare their intention latest by the end of FA25.

Students must decide to pursue the Plan I: Thesis Option no later than Week 1 of their 6th academic Quarter.

Comprehensive Exam Requirements

Students pursuing the Plan II: Comprehensive Exam option are required to pass a total of 3 comprehensive examinations. One exam is to be passed from each of these three areas: ML/Computing, Math/Statistics, and Algorithms/Systems. Students are permitted up to five different courses/attempts.

No more than three course-hosted comprehensive examinations can be taken in a single quarter, and no comprehensive examination can be repeated in a single quarter. Students cannot count the same course towards more than one comprehensive exam area requirement. The courses marked for comprehensive examination can be taken only for a letter grade. In order to receive credit for a comprehensive exam, students must also receive a passing grade (B- or higher) in the course.

Please visit our [webpage](#) to learn more about comprehensive exam eligible courses.

Course Descriptions

DSC 200 - Data Science Programming

Prerequisite course(s): None

Computing structures and programming concepts such as object orientation, data structures such as queues, heaps, lists, search trees and hash tables. Laboratory skills include Jupyter notebooks, RESTful interfaces and various software development kits (SDKs).

DSC 202 - Data Mgt for Data Science

Prerequisite course(s): None

Principles of data management, relational data model, relational algebra, SQL for data science, NoSQL Databases (document, key-value, graph, column-family), Multidimensional data management (data warehousing, OLAP Queries, OLAP Cubes, Visualizing multidimensional data).

DSC 203 - DataVis/Scalable Vis Analytics

Prerequisite course(s): DSC 202

Commonly used algorithms and techniques in data visualization. Interactive reasoning and exploratory analysis through visual interfaces. Application of data visualization in various domains including science, engineering, and medicine. Scalable interactive methods involving exploring big data and visualization

methods. Techniques to evaluate effectivity and interpretability of analytical products for diverse users to obtain insights in support of assessment, planning, and decision making.

DSC 204A - Scalable Data Systems

Prerequisite course(s): DSC 202

Storage/memory hierarchy, distributed scalable computing (cluster, cloud, edge) principles. Big Data storage, management and processing at scale. Dataflow programming systems and programming models (MapReduce/Hadoop and Spark).

DSC 204B - Big Data Analytics Using Spark

(Not yet confirmed - will be cross-listed with CSE255)

Prerequisite course(s): DSC 200, 210, 212

This course is a hands-on introduction to big data analytics. Topics covered include: I/O bottleneck and the memory hierarchy; HDFS and Spark; RMS error minimization, PCA and percent of variance explained. Analysis of NOAA weather data. Data collection and curation. Limitations of train/test methodology and leaderboards. K Means and intrinsic dimension. Classification, Boosting and XGBoost. Margins. Neural Networks and tensorflow. Students will develop the skills and attitudes required to write jupyter notebooks that can be understood by domain experts.

DSC 205 - Geometry of Data

Prerequisite course(s): DSC 210 or ECE 269, DSC 212, DSC 240

This course will cover graph-based data modeling, analysis and representation. Topics include: spectral graph theory, spectral clustering, kernel-based manifold learning, dimensionality reduction and visualization, multiway data analysis, graph signal processing, graph neural networks.

DSC 206 - Algorithms for Data Science

Prerequisite course(s): DSC 212

With the advent of large-scale machine learning, online social networks, and computationally intensive models, data scientists must deal with data that is massive in size, arrives fast, and must be processed within an interactive or online manner. This course studies the mathematical foundations of massive data processing, developing algorithms and analyzing them. We explore methods for sampling, sketching, and distributed processing of large scale databases, clustering, dimensionality reduction, and methods of optimization for the purpose of scalable statistical description, querying, pattern mining, and learning from data.

DSC 210 - Numerical Linear Algebra

Prerequisite course(s): None

Linear algebraic systems, least squares problems and regularization, orthogonalization methods, ill-conditioned problems, eigenvalue and singular value decomposition, principal component analysis, structured matrix factorization and fast algorithms, randomized linear algebra, JL lemma, sparse approximations

DSC 211 - Introduction to Optimization

Prerequisite course(s): DSC 210

Continuity and differentiability of a function of several variables, gradient vector, Hessian matrices, Taylor approximation, fundamentals of optimization, Lagrange multipliers, convexity, gradient descent

DSC 212 - Prob. & Stats. for Data Science

Prerequisite course(s): None

Probability, random variables, distributions, central limit theorem, maximum likelihood estimation, method of moments, confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, Bayesian estimation, introduction to simulation and the bootstrap.

DSC 213 - Statistics on Manifolds

Prerequisite course(s): DSC 210, DSC 212

This is a graduate topics course covering statistics with manifold constraints. Topics include: Frechet means and variances, principal geodesic analysis, directional statistics, random fields on manifolds, statistical distances between distributions, transport problems, and information geometry. Manifold constraints will be considered on simplexes, spheres, Stiefel manifold, stratified manifolds, cone of positive definite matrices, trees, compositional data, and other relevant manifolds.

DSC 214 - Topological Data Analysis

Prerequisite course(s): None

Topology provides a powerful way to describe essential features of functions and spaces. In recent years topological methods have attracted much attention for analyzing complex data. Fundamental developments have been made and the resulting methods have been applied in many fields, e.g., graphics, visualization, neuroscience and material science. This course introduces basic concepts and topological structures behind these developments, algorithms for them, and examples of applications.

DSC 215 - Statistical Thinking & Experimental Design

Prerequisite course(s): None

We hold science in high regard, however, not all scientific claims are correct. How do we know which claims to trust and which not to? This fundamental question is at the heart of this course. The goal of this course is to enable the student to evaluate any paper in data science, regardless of application area. Topics covered include experimental design, claims, evidence and statistical significance, The Replication Crisis, falsifiability, philosophy of science, history of probability and statistics. About half of these class meetings, as well as the final project, would be devoted to evaluating contemporary papers in data science. This class will be in the form of an open discussion, based on provided reading materials. The only prerequisite is a statistics class that covers hypothesis testing and P-values.

DSC 231 - EmdbdSensing/IOT DataMod/Methods

Prerequisite course(s): None

Sensory data and control is mediated by devices near the edge of sensor networks, referred to as IOT (Internet of Things) devices. Components of IOT platforms: signal processing, communications/networking, control, real-time operating systems. Interfaces to cloud computing stack, publish-subscribe protocols such as MQTT, embedded software/middleware components, metadata schema, metadata normalization methods, applications in selected CPS (cyber-physical system) applications.

DSC 240 - Machine Learning

Prerequisite course(s): DSC 210, 212

A graduate level course in machine learning algorithms: decision trees, principal component analysis, k-means, clustering, logistic regression, random forests, boosting, neural networks, kernel methods, deep learning.

DSC 241 - Statistical Models

Prerequisite course(s): DSC 210, 212

Linear/nonlinear models, diagnostics, polynomial regression, robust methods, regularization and penalization (ridge regression, lasso, etc.), bootstrap, model selection (cross-validation), generalized linear models, nonparametric regression, linear classification, classification and regression trees, boosting, neural networks.

DSC 242 - High-Dimensional Prob/Stats

Prerequisite course(s): None

Concentration inequalities, Markov processes and ergodicity, martingale inequalities, empirical processes, sparse linear models in high dimensions, principal component analysis in high dimensions, estimation of large covariance matrices.

DSC 243 - Advanced Optimization

Prerequisite course(s): DSC 211, DSC 212

Linear/quadratic programming, optimization under constraints, optimization on the space of probabilities, gradient descent (deterministic and stochastic), convergence rate of gradient descent, acceleration phenomena in convex optimization, stochastic optimization with large data sets, complexity lower bounds for convex.

DSC 244 - Large-Scale Statistical Analysis

Prerequisite course(s): DSC 210, DSC 212, DSC 241

Large-scale hypothesis testing, Family-wise error rate (FWER) and false discovery rate (FDR) control and estimation, empirical null distribution, empirical covariance matrices, empirical Bayes methods.

DSC 245 - Intro to Causal Inference

Prerequisite course(s): DSC 212, DSC 240

Causal versus predictive inference, potential outcomes and randomized experiments (A/B testing), structural causal models (interventions, counterfactuals, causal diagram, do-operator, d-separation), causal structure learning (constraint and score-based algorithms, and functional causal model-based methods), identification of causal effect (back-door and front-door criterion, do-calculus), estimation of causal effect (matching, propensity score, doubly robust estimation, instrumental variables, conditional effects), advanced topics (causal discovery and inference in the presence of distribution shifts, selection bias, hidden confounders, cycles, nonlinear causal mechanisms, missing values, and causal representation learning.)

DSC 250 - Advanced Data Mining

Prerequisite course(s): None

Graph mining and basic text analysis (including keyphrase extraction and generation), set expansion and

taxonomy construction, graph representation learning, graph convolutional neural networks, heterogeneous information networks, label propagation, and truth findings.

DSC 251 - Machine Learning in Control

Prerequisite course(s): DSC 211, DSC 240

Estimation of stability and uncertainty, optimal control, and sequential decision making.

DSC 252 - Statistical NLP

Prerequisite course(s): None

Diving deep into the classical NLP pipeline: tokenization, stemming, lemmatization, part-of-speech tagging, named entity recognition, parsing, and machine translation. Finite-state transducer, context-free grammar, Hidden Markov Models (HMM), and Conditional Random Fields (CRF) will be covered in detail.

DSC 253 - Adv Data-Driven Text Mining

Prerequisite course(s): None

Unsupervised, weakly supervised, and distantly supervised methods for text mining problems, including information retrieval, open-domain information extraction, text summarization (both extractive and generative), and knowledge graph construction. Bootstrapping, comparative analysis, learning from seed words and existing knowledge bases will be the key methodologies.

DSC 254 - Statistical Signal/ImageAnalysis

Prerequisite course(s): DSC 210 or ECE 269, DSC 212

A graduate level course on signal and image analysis spanning three main themes. Statistical signal processing: random processes, stochasticity, stationarity, Wiener filter, Kalman filter, matched filter ; Signal processing: time-frequency representations, wavelets, signal processing with sparse representation (dictionary learning) ; Image processing: registration, image degradation and restoration: noise models + denoising, image pyramids, random fields

DSC 260 - Data Science, Ethics, & Society

Prerequisite course(s): None

Data science is transforming our lives, and so we must consider the ethical and societal impacts, implications, and constraints in our data science efforts. This course will consider foundational concepts including power, justice, bias, privacy, and explainability; societal practices including delegation, organizational incentives, and accountability; and governance mechanisms including law, regulation, and norms.

DSC 261 - Responsible Data Science

Prerequisite course(s): DSC 212, DSC 240

Data Science lifecycle, data cleaning and quality management, data profiling, causal inference, algorithmic fairness (fairness definitions, impossibility results, causal fairness, building fair ML models, fairness beyond classification), algorithmic transparency (interpretability vs explainability, auditing-black-box algorithms, algorithmic recourse).

UC ACADEMIC POLICIES

Enrollment and Registration

UC San Diego Catalog

- Please visit [UCSD Catalog](#)

Office of Registrar

- Please visit [Office of the Registrar](#)

Course Enrollment

- [Schedule of Classes](#) is a tool to help find course offerings and schedules.
- You can enroll without an appointment at any time during the enrollment period by using [WebReg](#).
- You can print a copy of your schedule from WebReg.
- Note: The official university deadline to add classes (including Special Studies classes) is Friday of Week 2. Requests to add classes after Week 2 are not guaranteed and require a request submitted through the Enrollment Authorization System (EASy) to be approved by both instructor and department offering the course, and submitted to the Office of the Registrar by 4 p.m. on Friday of the final week of instruction.
- [The Enrollment and Registration Calendar](#) provides academic deadlines to help guide you during enrollment and registration.

Enrollment and Fee Payment Holds

- If your account is delinquent, the UC Finance department will place a Hold on your student account. [Here are the different reasons your account may be on Hold](#)
- To learn more, go to [Holds](#). Contact the office indicated to clear each hold.
- WebReg will not allow you to enroll or Add/ Change/ Drop unless all enrollment holds have been cleared.
- The Cashier's Office cannot process fee payments until all fee payment holds have been cleared.
- Enrollment limits will be enforced for all graduate students.
- If a class is full, the system will offer you the option to wait-list.

WebReg

Deadlines are as of 11:59 p.m. on the date posted. Transactions requiring in-person assistance have a deadline of 4:30 p.m. on the date posted.

- Before classes begin, through Week 2:
 1. To add a class that's open, follow the regular enrollment procedure in [WebReg](#). If you wish to switch sections of course, it is considered a drop and add transaction, and all drop/ add/ change deadlines apply.

2. If a class is full, you may add your name to the waitlist via [WebReg](#), and follow the [waitlist procedures](#).
 3. Graduate students, work with your graduate coordinators when altering your quarter class schedule to ensure you are meeting all campus, graduate program, and field area requirements and standards.
Note: The official university deadline to add classes (including [Special Studies classes](#)) is Friday of Week 2.
- Week 3 through Week 10:
 1. Requests to add classes after Week 2 are not guaranteed. Check with the academic department offering the course for specific guidelines.
 2. Submit a request through Enrollment Authorization System ([Enrollment Authorization System \(EASy\) Request](#)) Request, giving enough time to be approved by 4 p.m. on Friday of the final week of instruction.

Academic Holds

Every hold has a different cause and effect on your activity at UC San Diego. Please refer to [Resolving Holds](#) to understand each hold type and how to resolve them.

Repeating Courses

Full text available here: Repetition of Courses - [Regulation 505 - PDF Version](#)

Repetition for credit of courses (not so authorized by the appropriate Committee on Courses) is allowed subject to the following limitations:

- A. A student may not repeat a course for which a grade of A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, I, P, or S is recorded on their transcript.
- B. Courses in which a grade of D or F has been awarded may not be repeated on a P/NP or S/U basis.
- C. Graduate students may repeat a course in which a grade of U has been awarded on an S/U basis only.
- D. Repetition of a course for which a student's transcript bears two or more entries with grades among D, F, NP, or U requires the approval of the appropriate provost or dean.
- E. All grades received by a student shall be recorded on the student's transcript unless changed in accordance with Regulation 500(H). A student may receive degree credit for a course only once, unless the course has been approved for repetition.

Leave of Absence

Graduate students are eligible for a maximum 3 quarters leave of absence with department approval. Students access the online form through the Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs Student Portal. A graduate student who is bearing a child and/or has primary responsibility for the care of an infant or child under the age of five, and is in good academic standing may request an additional 3 quarters leave

of absence (follow the same procedures below but specify "parenting" or "maternity" on the leave form as the reason).

Withdrawing from the University

- A student leaving the University and not planning to return must return all borrowed library material, set up an exit interview with the Student Business Services Office, and obtain all other clearances listed on the on-line form.
- A student who must leave the academic program for more than three quarters or while on academic probation must withdraw from the program. A withdrawal allows a student to apply for readmission when ready to resume. A student who seeks readmission to the program must not have more than 8 units of "F" grades. Readmission is not guaranteed. Please discuss details and paperwork with a Graduate Program Advisor.
- A student withdrawing during the first thirty-five calendar days of a quarter will receive a refund of fees according to the Schedule of Refunds for Tuition, Educational Fee, University Registration Fee, and other Student Fees. The date of withdrawal used in calculating a refund will be the date on which the form is submitted to the Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs. Refer to the Schedule of Classes for refund information.
- A student on a leave of absence who subsequently withdraws must obtain all clearance signatures for the withdrawal.

GRADING

General Policy

A, B, C, D, or F grades reflect your performance in a class and result in grade points that count toward your GPA. You must be enrolled in a class through the ninth week of instruction to earn one of the following grades:

- A+, A, A- = Excellent
- B+, B, B- = Good
- C+, C, C- = Fair
- D = Poor
- F = Fail

Please refer to the [UC San Diego Grades webpage](#) for more information about grade types and deadlines.

All courses (other than research credits for DSC 299) that will be counted towards MS degree will need to be for a letter grade.

In order to receive credit for a comprehensive exam, students must also receive a passing grade (B- or higher) in both the course and the comprehensive exam.

S/U Grade Policy

Students may take a course for Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory for Research Credits (DSC 299) only to count towards MS program requirements.

Grade Types

Blank Grades

If your transcript does not have a grade recorded for one of your courses, contact the professor immediately to remedy any outstanding issues. A blank grade will lapse to a grade of "F" or "U" if not cleared by the end of the following quarter. It is the responsibility of each student to take appropriate action for clearing up any grade problems.

Incomplete Grades

If a student is doing passing work in a course but legitimate reasons prevent the student from completing the course, the professor may agree to assign an "I" (incomplete) grade. To receive this placeholder status, the student must request the incomplete no later than final exams week from their faculty. Course work must be successfully completed by the deadline set by the instructor or before the final week of the following quarter, whichever comes first. If the coursework is not completed by the date required, a grade of F will be assigned.

In-Progress Grades

If you are in a course series that spans more than one quarter, you may be assigned an In-Progress Grade, reflected as "IP" on your transcript. This occurs when finishing the entire course series is necessary in order for a faculty member to assess students accurately. The IP grade will be replaced by a final grade once you have completed the course series.

Withdraw Grades

Students who drop a course between the fifth and ninth weeks of the quarter, will earn a "W" (Withdrawal) grade on their transcript. Students may not withdraw from a course after the ninth week of the term. A "W" grade does not affect GPA.

Letter Grades

Group A: Introductory, Group B: Core, and Group C: Elective courses must be taken for a letter grade.

Good Academic Standing

Good academic standing is determined by graduate students meeting departmental and graduate studies standards; a GPA of 3.0 or above, in upper-division, graduate and professional course work; satisfactory spring evaluation; and having no more than a total of eight units of "F" and/or "U" grades. Students should also maintain satisfactory progress toward completion of degree requirements.

Good Academic Standing is a requirement for:

1. Holding academic and staff appointments.

2. Receiving fellowship, scholarship, or traineeship appointments.
3. Advancing to candidacy for a graduate degree.
4. Going on a leave of absence.
5. Obtaining a graduate degree from UC San Diego.

Graduate students who are not in Good Academic Standing for any reason are subject to probation and/or disqualification from further graduate study.

Academic Probation

A student who fails to maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better will be put on academic probation and will work with their Graduate Program Advisor to develop a plan for improving academic performance. Students on academic probation must demonstrate an improvement in their GPA in subsequent quarters in order to continue in the program. Any student with more than 8 units of "U" and/or "F" grades or a GPA of less than a 2.5 is subject to immediate dismissal.

Transcripts

Grades are typically available two weeks after a term has ended. Grades are posted on TritonLink. Official transcripts may be ordered anytime through the UC San Diego Registrar at (858) 534-3153 or by completing an online request.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

The Virtual Advising Center (VAC)

All students are strongly encouraged to connect with the DSC graduate department through the [Virtual Advising Center](#) for non-urgent academic inquiries. The DSC Graduate Student Affairs team will respond to student inquiries in the VAC within 1-2 business days.

Students can access the Virtual Advising Center through TritonLink or by directly by clicking the VAC Button on this page. To reach the DSC Graduate Advising Office directly, choose "Data Science" from the drop-down menu under "Direct To." Choose "Notify Via Text Message" to ensure you see the VAC response as soon as a DSC Advisor has responded.

Students can refer to the VAC after drop-in sessions and advising appointments for a summary of the meeting and access any discussed links.

Drop-in Advising

All students are strongly encouraged to attend drop-in advising PRIOR to scheduling an advising appointment. Drop-in sessions are designed to be 10-15 minutes in length. These sessions are for 1-2

questions that can quickly be addressed. If the Data Science Grad Advisor determines an inquiry will take longer to address, students will be asked to schedule a follow-up advising appointment.

Drop-in advising is given on a first come, first served basis; there is no guarantee that you will see an advisor during drop-in advising. Students will not be allotted additional time as we often have several students waiting. The last student will be seen 15 minutes before the end of the advising hours available that day. Drop-in advising topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Degree checks
- Review of courses for the current quarter
- Selection of courses for the upcoming quarter
- Review already completed forms

Academic Advising Appointment

Scheduled appointments are available during specified times in 30-minute increments. To schedule an appointment with your advisor, please refer to our webpage for further instructions. If you need to cancel your appointment, we request that you notify the department at least 24 hours in advance.

Advising appointment topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Developing long-term academic plans
- Students facing academic difficulty or other challenges that may or may not require a referral
- Assistance preparing/submitting academic forms

GRADUATE STUDENT RESOURCES

Parking

UC San Diego encourages students to take alternative courses to commute to campus, please visit the [UC San Diego parking website](#) for more information.

Graduate students may use a virtual ParkMobile app to purchase B permits. Graduate students can always “park down” in S or D spaces if they don’t find a conveniently located B parking space. Students can also save by purchasing D parking on an ongoing basis.

Anyone parking a motorcycle, motorized scooter or motorized bike (motorbike) is eligible to purchase a M (Motorcycle) permit. Valid M permits allow parking in motorcycle spaces only.

Please refer to the webpage [Transportation and Parking Options for Graduate Students](#) for more information.

Important Points of Contact

Graduate Student Affairs Staff

- [Laura Whitmee](mailto:lwhitmee@ucsd.edu) - Graduate Admissions Advisor - lwhitmee@ucsd.edu
- [Lauren Brunson](mailto:lobrunson@ucsd.edu) - Master's Program Advisor - lobrunson@ucsd.edu
- [Kimber Worthy](mailto:kworthy@ucsd.edu) - PhD Advisor - kworthy@ucsd.edu
- [Julia Nemeth](mailto:jnemeth@ucsd.edu) - Graduate Program Manager - jnemeth@ucsd.edu

Division of Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs (GEPA)

- Kimberly McCusker - Graduate Academics Affairs Advisor
 - Supports MS Students with the following:
 - Final degree checks and conferral
 - Academic exception petitions
 - Advising on policy/process

HDSI Graduate Career Center

- Kelly Jensen - Career Advisor and Alumni/Employer Outreach Specialist - kbjensen@ucsd.edu

HDSI Industry

- Kyle Hofer-Mora - Assistant Director for External Relations and Strategic Initiatives
- David Lightfoot - Administrative Assistant for External Relations
- Erik Mjoen - Industry Relations Manager
- Saura Naderi - K-14 Outreach Directory

UC SAN DIEGO RESOURCES

Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs

[The Division Of Graduate Education And Postdoctoral Affairs \(GEPA\)](#) is the central resource for all matters related to graduate education and postdoctoral affairs at UC San Diego. Their website will help you navigate to many of the following resources, including, but not limited to:

- Financial Aid
- Student Life
- Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) and their events
- International Students
- Information regarding the Office for Students with Disabilities
- Housing
- Students with Dependents
- Information for Student Health and Health Promotion Services
- Information for Counseling and Psychological Services
- Information regarding our Campus Community Centers, which build affinity among a diverse population of students, faculty and staff members
- Information on supporting the arts at UC San Diego
- The Hub Basic Needs Center at UC San Diego
- Sustainability Resource Center at UC San Diego
- Transportation and Parking
- IT Help
- Information and resources regarding academic and career advancement, as provided by:
 - The Geisel Library
 - The Writing Hub
 - Career Center
 - Division of Extended Studies
 - Grad Life

International Students and Programs Office (ISEO)

[ISEO's](#) team of expert staff provides the highest levels of knowledge and expertise in advising and immigration services to international students at UC San Diego.

Advising topics include:

- F & J Visa Advising
- Working
- Traveling
- Taxes, SSN & Financial Resources
- Academic & English Resources
- Housing
- Health, Wellness & Recreation

- Tritons Impacted by Events Abroad
- Family & Dependents
- Driver License & Transportation
- Cultural Engagement & Diversity
- Safety & Legal Resources

Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD)

The [Office for Students with Disabilities \(OSD\)](#) at UC San Diego works with Undergraduate, graduate, and professional school students with documented disabilities.

The OSD also works with a variety of departments and programs across campus to provide access to learning and internship opportunities for students with disabilities which opens doors to meaningful employment after graduation. In addition to Career Services, our Academic Internship Program connects students to opportunities where they can earn academic credit and real world skills that enable them to be more competitive candidates in the job market. The OSD also employs student staff with disabilities, training them in customer service, front and back office management, team building, and universal design in physical and electronic environments.

OSD provides support to students with disabilities regarding:

- Steps for a Successful Transition to UC San Diego
- Requesting Accommodations
- Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) Letters
- Types of Accommodations
- Academic Liaisons
- Reminders for Students Obtaining Accommodations
- General Differences Between K-12 Education and University Education
- Student Veterans
- Study Abroad
- Summer Session
- Forms & Guidelines
- Disability-Based Grievance Procedures

Ombuds

The [Office of the Ombuds](#) provides a confidential, safe space for students, staff, and faculty to talk about concerns and problem-solve issues arising from interpersonal and group conflict.

Ombuds provides confidential, neutral, and informal dispute resolution services for the UC San Diego community.

They are available to assist faculty, staff, students, non-Senate academics, postdoctoral trainees, and employees of UC San Diego Health System (UC San Diego Medical Center and related facilities) who seek

guidance with the resolution of academic or administrative issues and disputes. Its services supplement, but do not replace, other administrative processes at the University.

They work to facilitate communication and assist parties in reaching mutually acceptable agreements in order to find fair and equitable resolutions to concerns that arise at the university.

To make an appointment, please call 858-534-0777.

UC San Diego Basic Needs Resources

The HUB Basic Needs Center

Basic Needs refers to the most essential resources required to thrive as a student, which include access to nutritious food, stable housing, and financial wellness resources.

At The Hub Basic Needs Center (The Hub), we provide resource referrals for registered UC San Diego students from a collective of on-campus program collaborations and off-campus program partnerships in the greater San Diego area.

UC San Diego Basic Needs Initiatives is a collection of services provided by campus partners to work with both undergraduate and graduate students who have concerns with access to Basic Needs resources. The Hub's services are categorized by Food Security, Housing Resources, and Financial Wellness.

If you have concerns with access to one or more than one type of Basic Needs resource, please complete a [Basic Needs Assistance Form](#).

PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS AVAILABLE AT THE HUB:

- Soap (body & facial)
- Shampoo & conditioner (including natural hair care products)
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Menstrual products (including new sustainable products)
- Socks & blankets
- Laundry detergent pods

To access these FREE personal care products, please visit our [Hygiene Product Google Form](#) to select needed items and schedule an appointment time to collect those items at The Hub.

Triton Food Pantry

[Triton Food Pantry](#) has taken direct actions to increase food security for UC San Diego undergraduate and graduate students through the creation of a spectrum of food resources for students to explore! This means having the availability of nutritionally adequate and culturally reflective safe foods, ability to acquire such foods in a dignified way, and accessibility to prepare meals.

The Zone

The Zone is a lounge for student well-being designed to promote healthy, balanced living to UC San Diego students. The Zone works to support students within the 8 Dimensions of Well-Being and offers free programs such as:

- Art & Soul
- Career Development
- Financial Literacy
- Healthy Cooking Demos
- Active Well-Being
- Tea Time
- Therapy Fluffies

Between programs, The Zone is a lounge space to relax, hang out, charge your devices, fill up your water bottle, study, and de-stress. Find us at the heart of campus!

Location: Price Center Plaza, next to Jamba Juice

Fall Hours of Operation: Monday–Friday from 10am–6pm, excluding [university holidays](#)

Contact us: zone@health.ucsd.edu, (858) 534-5553

Instagram: @ucsdshw

The Zone also serves as a resource center for the Student Health and Well-Being cluster. Stop by to learn more about all the offerings available to you at Counseling and Psychological Services, Student Health Services, and Health Promotion Services. The Zone is proud to be a one-stop well-being lounge that encourages discovery, exploration, awareness, and adoption of new and current well-being offerings that can affect positive and measurable behavioral changes in our UC San Diego Triton community.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

What does CAPS offer?

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) has been an integral member of the UC San Diego community since the late 1960's. CAPS is accredited by the International Association of Counseling Services (IACS). CAPS' integrative and student-centered services are designed to support students towards their academic success and personal development and well-being while at UC San Diego. CAPS also curates this helpful resource page specifically aimed at supporting the unique needs of graduate and professional students. CAPS services include the following:

- High quality, culturally-sensitive, and confidential counseling services, including individual, couples, family and group counseling, crisis/urgent care interventions, and referral services FREE of charge.
- Psychiatric services and consultation.

- Psycho-educational workshops and drop-in forums grounded on the latest science of optimal well-being and peak performance to support students in their life and leadership skills acquisition.
- A Wellness Peer Education Program, nationally recognized as a model of best practice for empowering students to develop leadership and helping skills.
- Campus mental health and prevention programming focused on stigma-discrimination reduction and community-building.
- Student mentoring and advocacy.
- Outreach and consultation services to faculty, staff and University administrators.
- An APPIC-approved post-doctoral fellowship training program.

Registered undergraduate, graduate, and professional school students are welcome for all these services. During the summer, students who were enrolled the previous Spring quarter and are intending to return in the Fall quarter are eligible for services.

When to Use CAPS

Students also consult with CAPS about a variety of more specific personal, academic and relationship problems. No problem or concern is too big or small. Common issues students bring to CAPS are (but not limited to):

- Depression and suicidal thoughts
- Stress and anxiety
- Poor academic performance and study skills
- Roommate conflicts
- Homesickness and difficulty adjusting to the university
- Disappointing social relationships
- Alcohol and other substance use and abuse
- Difficulty in love relationships
- Loneliness and isolation
- Eating and body image problems
- Depression and suicidal thoughts
- Cultural identity
- Sexuality and sexual identity
- Family conflict
- Grief and loss

To schedule a counseling appointment, please call (858) 534-3755. For more information about appointments, please visit the [appointments](#) page.

CARE at the Sexual Assault Resource Center (SARC)

CARE at the Sexual Assault Resource Center is the UC San Diego confidential* advocacy and education office for sexual violence and gender-based violence (dating violence, domestic violence, stalking).

CARE provides violence prevention education for the entire UC San Diego campus and offers free and confidential services for students, staff and faculty impacted by sexual assault, relationship violence and stalking.

**All communications with users of CARE services are privileged and confidential under California Evidence Code Sections 1010-1027, 1035.2 and 1037.2. Accordingly, employees in the CARE Office are not mandatory reporters under Title IX or the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act.*

Collegiate Recovery Program

The UC San Diego Collegiate Recovery Program is for graduate and professional students who are looking for a support program to help them through their recovery journey. There are 12 Step Meetings, Smart Recovery Meetings and NA Meetings on or near campus. Our Recovery Program will be led by our Health Educator for Alcohol and other Drugs and various members within our Student Health and Well-Being Cluster (Health Promotions, Counseling and Psychological Services and Student Health Services) to provide a continuum of care for our students. We aim to have students in recovery feel supported while here at UC San Diego.

Student Health & Well-being

Student Health Services at UC San Diego

Student Health Services (SHS) offers healthcare services for a variety of your medical needs. Their facility is located in the center of campus, just west of Library Walk and the Price Center Bookstore. All students paying registration fees have access to SHS. Their staff of physicians, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, optometrists, health educators, and other health care professionals is committed to helping students maintain healthy lifestyles. Most outpatient primary care medical services at SHS are provided to you at no cost while you are a registered student.

UC Student Health Insurance Plan (UC-SHIP)

UC SHIP is a student-focused benefits package for UCSD graduate and undergraduate students, including strong medical, behavioral health, pharmacy, dental, and vision care benefits. UC SHIP is compliant with the Affordable Care Act requirements and works to complement your care at the Student Health Services right on campus. Enrollment is automatic for registered students; waiver application is also available.

Writing Hub

Graduate-level academic writing projects can be complex, long-term, and stressful. In the Writing Hub's graduate-facing programs, they build networks of support around graduate students to help them succeed in their writing, thrive in their programs, and achieve success in professional development and social/emotional well-being.