Our interdisciplinary Data Science programs are accessible to students with no programming or computer science background, and are joint programs with other schools at USC. Carefully designed introductory courses on computational thinking and programming enable students to take advanced electives in machine learning, user experience design and strategy, knowledge graphs, and scalable data systems. Students learn to work on teams through experiential learning in course-long projects, hands-on homeworks, class exercises in groups, and capstone classes. Many students take internships during their studies, either in research labs in the engineering school or in local tech companies.

USC is second among all private universities in the number of graduates who join top tech companies. Our graduates pursue careers as leaders of data science teams in diverse sectors including technology, entertainment, health, and policy. Our alumni network spans Fortune 100 companies such as Apple, McKinsey, Capital One, Google, Meta, Amazon, LinkedIn, Bloomberg, and Associated Press, as well as many locally headquartered companies such as Fox Entertainment, Netflix, ESRI, Age of Learning, Warner Bros Entertainment and a myriad others that are part of the vibrant Los Angeles tech landscape known as Silicon Beach.

Remote learning is offered for all our graduate data science degree programs through USC’s Distance Education Network (DEN@Viterbi). USC is ranked number one in Online Graduate Computer Information Technology Programs (computer science), Online Graduate Engineering Programs, and Online Graduate Computer Information Technology Program (computer science) for Veterans.

Faculty in this program run large data science projects in natural language processing, social network analysis, biomedical data, environmental modeling, and social justice. Some instructors are industry and government practitioners that lead large teams and contribute to community open source software projects.
CORE PROGRAMS
We offer a comprehensive Master of Science in Applied Data Science program that enable students to learn about a range of topics in machine learning, distributed data systems, and the data science programming ecosystem. Students with previous coursework or experience in data science can work with advisors to design customized curricula that replaces requirements with more advanced courses.

USC undergraduates can enlist in the Progressive Degree Program (PDP) to apply undergraduate coursework toward a USC master’s degree in one additional year.

Undergraduate programs:
• Bachelor of Arts in Data Science
• Foundations of Data Science Minor

Graduate programs:
• Master of Science in Applied Data Science
• Master of Science in Cyber Security Engineering
• Graduate Certificate in Data Science Foundations
• Graduate Certificate in Applied Data Science

INTERDISCIPLINARY JOINT DATA SCIENCE MASTERS PROGRAMS
We offer several master’s degree programs that enable students to acquire data science skills in the context of a particular discipline. These programs are designed to gently introduce students to programming and computing. Students take courses in computing and data science in the Viterbi School of Engineering as well as courses on quantitative methods and advanced topics in that discipline. Some programs are offered online through our #1 ranked DEN@Viterbi blended platform, enabling students from around the world to complete their graduate degree from a distance while balancing work, life and family.

• Master of Science in Communication Data Science, joint with the USC Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism
• Master of Science in Spatial Data Science, joint with the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences
• Master of Science in Public Policy Data Science, joint with the USC Price School of Public Policy
• Master of Science in Healthcare Data Science, joint with the USC Keck School of Medicine
• Master of Science in Environmental Data Science, joint with the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences

THE DATA SCIENCE COMMUNITY AT USC
Our USC Center for Knowledge-Powered Interdisciplinary Data Science (CKIDS) holds semester-long DataFest events that enable students to participate in real-world data science projects advised by faculty across the campus. The GRIDS data science student association provides targeted tutorials and invited presentations from industry on practical applications.