

Sept. 2, 2022

Subject: Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Mathematics & Statistics and the Knight Foundation School of Computing and Information Sciences regarding degrees, majors, and tracks in Data Science

To Whom It May Concern:

The Department of Mathematics & Statistics (DM&S) is proposing a major related to Data Science inside their existing B.S. in Mathematical Sciences, and the DM&S committee in charge of that proposal has discussed this with relevant leadership within Knight Foundation School of Computing and Information Sciences (KFSCIS). This Memorandum of Understanding is intended to capture the content of that discussion and agreement.

1. In general, both KFSCIS and DM&S express their sincere desire to maintain collaborative, productive, collegial, and friendly relations between the units in service of providing our students with as many of the highest quality and flexible educational options as possible.
2. In view of the above, KFSCIS has no objection to DM&S creating a major focused on Data Science inside their existing degree program. The major name was agreed to be "Major in Mathematics - Mathematical Data Science" so to clearly distinguish it from upcoming KFSCIS proposals for a degree in Data Science, to show that it is an approach to Data Science that emphasizes mathematical foundations and theory, and to distinguish it from a more general Data Science course of study.
3. KFSCIS in general also has no objection to DM&S creating new Data-Science-related courses that overlap with existing KFSCIS offerings, as long as those courses are named and designed in such a way as to clearly indicate the mathematics focus of the offering. For example, KFSCIS is supportive of DM&S offering the following courses in their new major: "Statistical Data Science" and "Mathematical Machine Learning".
4. Regardless of the above, both units agree to continue to provide to the other unit's leadership, in accordance with the usual FIU processes, any other new course proposals that overlap with courses in the other unit, for their review and consent.
5. The new major lists five required computer science courses, namely, COP 2210 Computer Programming I, CAP 2752 Fundamentals of Data Science, COP 3337 Computer Programming II, COP 3530 Data Structures, and COP 4710 Database Management. KFSCIS is willing to serve MAS students in the above five courses with the understanding that there will be resources available to KFSCIS to perform this service.
6. Finally, DM&S has no objection in general to KFSCIS proposing a new B.S. in Data Science degree (BS:DS), homed in KFSCIS, in the future. As above, KFSCIS will provide the details of any new proposed degree and consult with DM&S in accordance with the usual FIU processes. Both KFSCIS and DM&S express their sincere desire that DM&S will be consulted on, contribute to, collaborate in, or even be a partner in the new BS:DS degree at KFSCIS.

Louis Tebou  
Chair, Department of Mathematics & Statistics

Jason X. Liu  
Interim Director, Knight Foundation School of  
Computing and Information Sciences

 9/7/2022

 9/6/2022