



SCHOOL OF  
INFORMATION AND  
LIBRARY SCIENCE

# CERTIFICATE IN APPLIED DATA SCIENCE (CADS)

SILS.UNC.EDU/PROGRAMS/CADS

**The Certificate in Applied Data Science (CADS)** is designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills to succeed in the modern workforce. As businesses, nonprofits, and government organizations increasingly rely on data for decision-making, the demand for “data capable” employees is growing dramatically. Not only are dedicated data science jobs on the rise, but a wide range of professional roles are now becoming data driven.

Drawing on the data science expertise of the UNC Information and Library Science (SILS), the CADS program offers focused training with a strong emphasis on practical workplace applications, including a practicum in which students will complete a project in a real-world setting. Learn more at [sils.unc.edu/programs/cads](https://sils.unc.edu/programs/cads).

CADS was developed specifically for students pursuing majors or degrees that are not traditionally data-focused. The curriculum will enable students to gain an understanding of data science tools, methods, and best practices, as well as the complex ethical and societal issues associated with data-driven approaches.

## Who is eligible to pursue the Certificate in Applied Data Science?

Enrollment is currently limited to UNC-Chapel Hill undergraduate students majoring or minoring in the five academic units that have established partnership agreements with SILS:

- Chemistry
- City and Regional Planning
- Environment, Ecology, and Energy
- Geography
- Political Science

Expansion of partnerships beyond this initial list is planned in the future as the program matures. Students pursuing degrees in information science, computer science, or statistics are NOT eligible to pursue the certificate.

## Are there any prerequisites?

As a prerequisite for admission to CADS, students must earn a B or higher in COMP 110, INLS 523, and STOR 155. Students who have mastered a prerequisite topic through other means (e.g., work experience, a different UNC course, or training outside of the university) can apply for a prerequisite waiver as part of the admissions process.

## How many credit hours are required to earn the certificate?

CADS requires 12 credit hours total, 9 credits of data science coursework and a 3-credit practicum. All courses are online.

## How many terms will it take to complete the certificate?

Due to restrictions on the number of online credit hours students can take per term, CADS will take 4 terms to complete.

## How do I apply?

Students should contact their department chair to express their interest in being nominated to apply.

For more detailed information about CADS, visit [sils.unc.edu/programs/cads](https://sils.unc.edu/programs/cads) or [go.unc.edu/cads](https://go.unc.edu/cads)