

# MSDS Online Application

Step-by-Step Guide

*Updated April 2026*

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**Go to Programs and select M.S. in Data Science, Online.**

 **UVA DATA SCIENCE**

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## M.S. in Data Science, Online

*A part-time, 100% online master's in data science  
designed for working professionals*

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## Data Science Program

**Program**

For Application Details and Requirements please refer to this [page](#).

Degree

MS ▾

Program

Data Science, Online ▾

*Applicants to the Residential MSDS Program should select "Data Science." Applicants to the Online MSDS Program should select "Data Science, Online."*

As a member of the State Authorizations Reciprocity Agreement, the University of Virginia (UVA) is authorized to provide curriculum in a distance learning environment to students located in all states in the United States except for California. (34 CFR 668.43(a)(6)& 34 CFR 668.72(n)). Please contact [sdsadmissions@virginia.edu](mailto:sdsadmissions@virginia.edu) with any questions.

Academic Load

Part-Time ▾

Term

Spring 2027 ▾

We're looking to craft a community of motivated scholars who:

- Are passionate about collaboratively solving the world's challenges using data science
- Desire to apply their intellectual curiosity around data science to a broad range of compelling contexts
- Are ready to engage with a rigorous STEM curriculum
- Recognize the value of diverse perspectives and strive to build and contribute to our inclusive community

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Select your intended start term

Our admissions criteria

# Personal Background

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## Personal Background

The University of Virginia does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity, marital status, national or ethnic origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, veteran status and family and genetic information. Submission of this data (about these characteristics) is voluntary and failing to submit this data will not adversely affect consideration of your application. For more information, visit the [Office for Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights](#).

Name	
First (Given)	<input type="text" value="Degi TEST"/>
Middle	<input type="text"/>
Last (Family)	<input type="text" value="Betcher TEST"/>
Suffix	<input type="text"/>
Preferred First	<input type="text" value="Degi TEST"/>
Former Last	<input type="text" value="Betcher"/>
Former First	<input type="text"/>

Addresses	
<b>Permanent Address</b> <a href="#">Delete</a>	
Country	<input type="text" value="United States"/>
Street Address	<input type="text" value="1919 Ivy Rd"/>
City	<input type="text" value="Charlottesville"/>
State	<input type="text" value="Virginia"/>
Postal Code	<input type="text" value="22903"/>

## Biographical Information

Sex

Gender Identity (optional)

If you would like the opportunity, we invite you to voluntarily share whether you openly identify as a gender or sexual minority (e.g., Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Nonbinary, etc.) Please note that this question is optional, and any answer or non-answer will not be used for discriminatory purposes.

Birthdate

Are you a first generation college student?

What is the highest educational attainment of any of your parents/guardians?

## Citizenship Information

Primary Citizenship

Dual Citizenship

Social Security Number  (omit dashes)

SSN is optional, however, if you are a current or former UVA student, or have been affiliated with UVA in the past, please consider entering your SSN to aid with matching your application to your UVA record.

## Background Information

Race/Ethnicity

Colleges and universities are asked by many groups, including the federal government, accrediting associations, college guides, and newspapers, to describe the ethnic/racial backgrounds of their students and employees. In order to respond to these requests, we ask you to answer the following two questions. [View Definitions](#)

Are you Hispanic or Latino?

Yes

No

Regardless of your answer to the prior question, please check *one or more* of the following groups in which you consider yourself to be a member:

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific
- Other
- White

The admissions committee does not have access to applicants' race or ethnicity; this is only for post-matriculation reporting purposes.

# Military Status

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## Military Status

US Armed Forces Status

Veteran

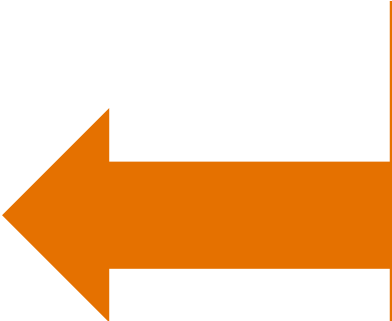
US Military Branch

Army

Are you a veteran of the United States Armed Forces who was previously enrolled at the University of Virginia?

- Yes  
 No

Continue



Active duty and veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, and military dependents, will receive an automatic application fee waiver and deposit waiver

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## Academic History

**Report your post-secondary educational history, beginning with your current/most recent institution.** This includes any institution in which you earned college credit for a grade, even if you did not receive a degree. Admission committees review applications using unofficial transcripts; all enrolling students must submit official transcripts before the start of their first semester.

**If English was the primary language of instruction at your undergraduate institution(s),** upload unofficial transcripts of your entire post-secondary academic record, including all undergraduate- and graduate-level institutions attended. You are exempt from the TOEFL/IELTS.

**If English was NOT the primary language of instruction at your undergraduate institution(s),** you are required to submit a course-by-course credential evaluation from any NACES-member evaluators. (IEE and SpanTran are [NACES-member](#) companies with custom applications for the School of Data Science at a discounted rate.) You will also need to submit your TOEFL/IELTS results.

Institution	Degree	Dates Attended
<a href="#">Add Institution</a>		
University of Virginia	Bachelor of Science, 05/...	08/2020–05/2024 <a href="#">Edit</a>

[Continue](#)

Enter each post-secondary institution you've attended, starting with the most recent.

# Academic History – Part II

**Add Institution** ✕

Institution

Country

City

State

Dates Attended   to

Level of Study

---

**Submit Transcript**

Please upload a scanned copy or digital facsimile of your transcript from this institution. You may upload those pages now as a single- or multi-page PDF, or each page as an image file. Your scanned document may be large and may take several minutes to upload depending upon the speed of your connection.

PDF or Scanned Pages  No file chosen

---

Upload an unofficial copy of your transcript from all post-secondary institutions you attended.

Enrolling students must provide an official final transcript showing proof of undergraduate degree conferral; this will be sent directly from your institution to UVA.

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## Language Test Scores

If English was NOT the primary language of instruction at your undergraduate institution(s), you are required to submit the TOEFL or IELTS. Test scores are valid for two years from the application deadline. Minimum scores may be found on the respective [program pages](#).

If you have taken an exam more than once, you may list each set of scores. We will consider the highest of each attempt to calculate your new score. If you have not taken the exam yet, please enter the date on which you plan to take the exam. Test scores must be submitted within one week (7 days) of the program application deadline.

Admission committees review applications using unofficial test score reports; all enrolling students must submit an official score report before the start of their first semester. Offers of admission are not binding until official test score reports are received and verified.

Enrolling students with English language test scores will be required to take the University of Virginia's English Language Proficiency Exam (UVELPE) prior to the start of their first term; visit the [UVA Center for American English & Culture FAQs page](#) for more information.

Date ▼	Type
--------	------

[Add Test](#)

[Continue](#)

If English was the primary language of your undergraduate institution, skip this step; you are automatically exempt.

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## University Standards

The University of Virginia recognizes that Honor is at once an injunction and an aspiration. The [Honor System](#) exists at the intersection of these two purposes: to foster our Community of Trust and to hold ourselves to the highest standards of integrity. Please read and review the explanation of the [Honor Committee](#) and the Honor Committee [Governing Documents](#).

### Honor Code

I have read the explanation of the Honor System. I understand that as a student at the University of Virginia, I will be participating in this system. I agree to support and abide by the Honor System, which prohibits lying, cheating, and stealing. I understand and accept that the Honor System is administered entirely by student representatives, including investigations, adjudications, and appeal review, and that violations may result in permanent expulsion and revocation of any University degree.

I further attest that all the information in my application is factually correct and honestly presented. The University of Virginia has my permission to verify information submitted in this application. I understand that any misrepresentation of my application will justify the denial or cancellation of my admission to the University before or after enrollment.

My signature on this page certifies that I agree to abide by the Honor Code, and that all the information provided in this application is my own work and is true and accurate.

The University of Virginia strives to provide a safe living, learning, and working environment for all members of our community. Although we do not ask candidates for admission to disclose criminal convictions or pending charges when they apply, we do require that admitted students provide this information before they enroll. When an admitted student discloses a conviction or pending charge, the University does not automatically withdraw admission. Rather, a University committee that represents varied interests evaluates the circumstances thoroughly and holistically and determines whether the student's enrollment would be consistent with the safety of the University community.

I agree to support and abide by the Honor System.

### University Standards

The safety and integrity of the University community is of utmost importance. A complete application must include answers to the following questions. An answer of "yes" will not preclude you from admission. However, your failure to provide complete and accurate information will be grounds to deny or withdraw your admission or to dismiss you after enrollment.

Have you ever been the subject of an academic or non-academic disciplinary action, been suspended or expelled from school for any disciplinary or honor code infraction?

- Yes  
 No

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Answer "University Standards" question

# Virginia In-State Educational Privileges

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## Virginia In-State Educational Privileges

UVA is a state-supported school, and applicants legally domiciled in the Commonwealth are entitled to privileges in admission and tuition. To apply for in-state privileges, please complete the questions below. If supporting documentation is needed, the applicant will be notified by the Office of Virginia Status. To better understand the requirements of Virginia domicile as set forth in the Code of Virginia, Section 23-7.4, please consult the following, [Code of Virginia](#), [Domicile Guidelines](#), [Appeal Process](#).

Do you believe you qualify for the [in-state tuition rate](#)?

Yes  
 No

*Note: the online MS in Data Science does not charge in-state/out-of-state tuition rates, but Virginia residents will still need to complete the below questions to evaluate their residency status.*

[Continue](#)

This is a standard question required of all admissions applications' university-wide as UVA is a public institution.

*The MSDS Online Program has one tuition rate.*

# Data Science Supplemental Information: Resume and Work Experience

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## Data Science Supplemental Information

### Resume / Curriculum Vitae

We hope your resume will demonstrate your involvement in activities outside of school or work, including leadership, service, family responsibilities, civic engagement, coding or research projects you're proud of, and any other accomplishments you'd like to share. You can find guidance about your resume [here](#). Upload a resume (2 pages maximum) below.

Resume MSDS Online.pdf

If applicable, please list your GitHub profile below. (OPTIONAL)

If applicable, please list your LinkedIn address below. (OPTIONAL)

### Work Experience

Do you currently work full-time?

Yes  
 No

How many years have you been in the workforce? (round up)

Current Employer

Current Position/Title

Upload your resume here.

Would like us to review your resume? Email me at [degibetcher@virginia.edu](mailto:degibetcher@virginia.edu) or schedule a 1:1 appointment.

# Data Science Supplemental Information: Short Answer Responses

## Short Answer Response

**Required:** Excellence in data science requires collaboration; students and faculty succeed by working together and relying on one another. What about your background, perspective, or life experiences will enable you to contribute to our collaborative community?(250 words or fewer)

**Required:** What are the specific steps you will take to incorporate this rigorous program into your personal and professional life? (150 words or fewer)

**Required:** What skills and/or knowledge do you want to gain from UVA's MS in Data Science program to help you achieve your professional goals? (150-250 words)

**Optional:** Use this space to provide insight and/or context regarding aspects of your application not otherwise addressed in the application, including, but not limited to, aberrant grades, gaps in your academic record or resume, or other extenuating circumstances. (250 words or fewer)

The only "right" answers are those that authentically represent who you are!

Be mindful of the word limit; it will cut off at the maximum.

Optional means optional; only answer this if you would like to provide additional context.

# Data Science Supplemental Information: Financial Aid

## Financial Aid

This section will be used in the institutional aid award process and will have no bearing on your admission decision.

Do you anticipate external scholarships, funding, or other financial support while you are in the program? This includes, but is not limited to, employer benefits, military or veteran benefits including survivor benefits, external scholarship funds, etc.

- Yes, full tuition and fees
- Yes, partial tuition and fees
- No

[US Citizens and Eligible Non-Citizens](#) may apply for federal financial aid, which is awarded on a rolling basis. To qualify, you must submit the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) by the recommended deadline from [UVA Student Financial Services](#).

The School of Data Science's Quantitative Fellowship Foundation offers additional need-based fellowship awards to eligible students in the MSDS programs. Note that any external or third-party funding may impact the award of Quantitative Fellowships. Refer to our [Funding Your Graduate Degree](#) page for more information.

Are you a [US Citizen or Eligible Non-Citizen](#)?

- Yes
- No

Have you submitted the FAFSA?

- Yes, I have completed the FAFSA and wish to be considered for a need-based fellowship award.
- No, I have not yet completed the FAFSA, but I plan to; I would like to be considered for a need-based fellowship award after I submit my FAFSA.
- No, I do not plan to submit the FAFSA.

Are you a current undergraduate student receiving the federal Pell Grant?

- Yes
- No

This will have no bearing on your admissions decision; however, it is important for SDS fellowship (scholarship) consideration.

Do you receive the Pell Grant? If so, you will receive an automatic application fee waiver.

# Data Science Supplemental Information: Fee Waiver Eligibility

## Fee Waiver Eligibility

All graduate applications to the School of Data Science require an application fee of \$85 USD or qualifying waiver. Domestic applicants may be eligible for an application fee waiver through the University of Virginia's Office of Graduate Outreach and Engagement; [check your eligibility here](#). If you are eligible, you will have the option to request a waiver after submitting the application and BEFORE making the payment.

The School of Data Science also provides select automated fee waivers; qualifying applicants will automatically have their application fee waived, with no further action or documentation required:


- Active duty and veterans of the US Armed Forces.
- Current undergraduate students who receive the Pell Grant.
- Citizens from the countries [United Nation's LDC list](#).

Finally, email the School of Data Science at [SDSadmissions@virginia.edu](mailto:SDSadmissions@virginia.edu) to request a departmental fee waiver code if you:

- Are employed full-time by the University of Virginia (Academic Division or Medical Center)
- Are employed full-time by a [Qualifying Public Services Employer](#) as determined by the U.S. Department of Education's [Public Service Loan Forgiveness \(PSLF\) Program](#)
- Completed your associate's degree at a school within the Virginia Community College System prior to earning your bachelor's degree

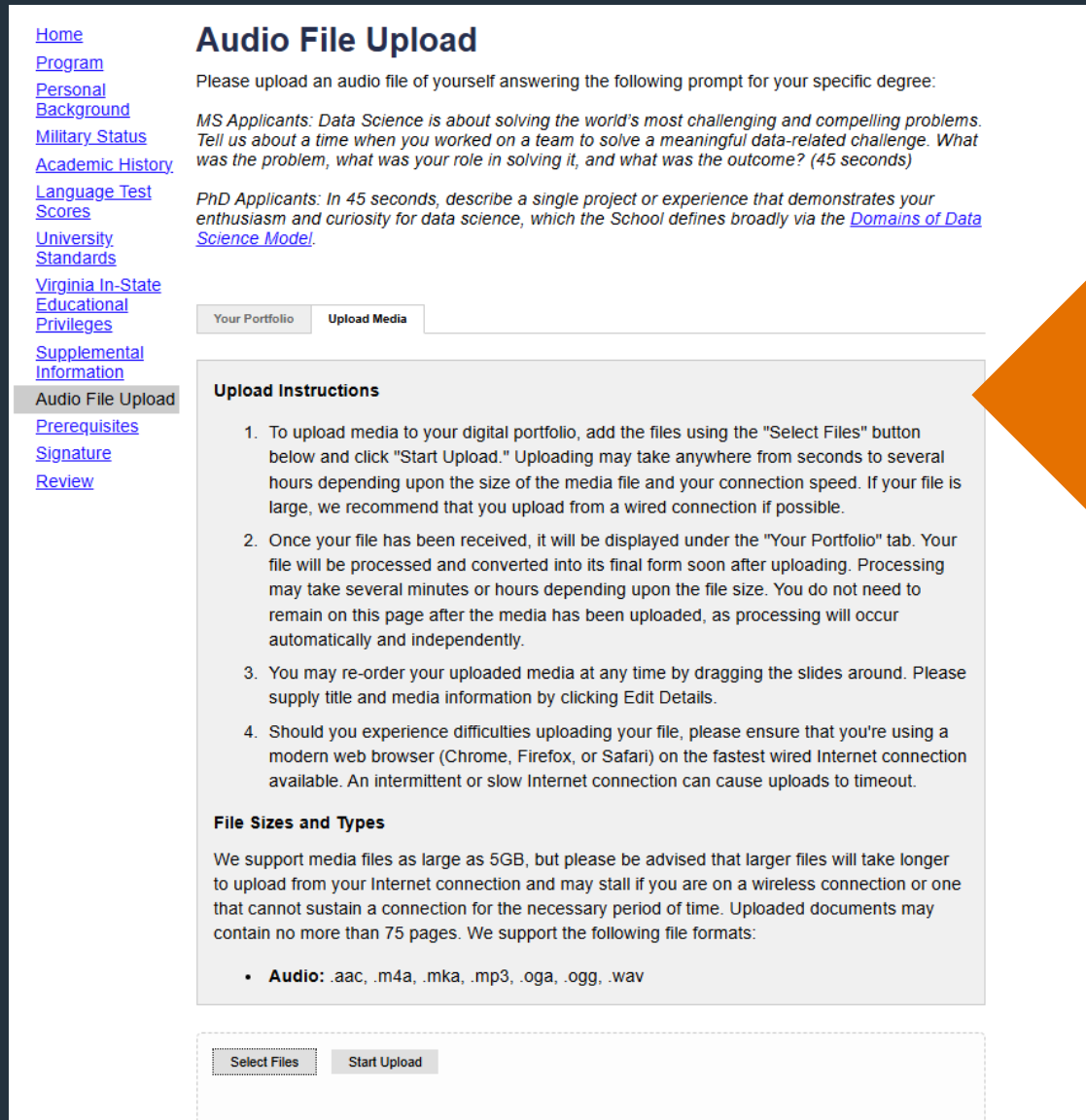
We cannot grant a fee waiver after payment has been made, and fees paid are non-refundable. An application will not be considered submitted until the fee is paid or the waiver has been processed.

Continue



Review if you are eligible for an application fee waiver

# Audio File Upload



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## Audio File Upload

Please upload an audio file of yourself answering the following prompt for your specific degree:

*MS Applicants: Data Science is about solving the world's most challenging and compelling problems. Tell us about a time when you worked on a team to solve a meaningful data-related challenge. What was the problem, what was your role in solving it, and what was the outcome? (45 seconds)*

*PhD Applicants: In 45 seconds, describe a single project or experience that demonstrates your enthusiasm and curiosity for data science, which the School defines broadly via the [Domains of Data Science Model](#).*

Your Portfolio **Upload Media**

### Upload Instructions

1. To upload media to your digital portfolio, add the files using the "Select Files" button below and click "Start Upload." Uploading may take anywhere from seconds to several hours depending upon the size of the media file and your connection speed. If your file is large, we recommend that you upload from a wired connection if possible.
2. Once your file has been received, it will be displayed under the "Your Portfolio" tab. Your file will be processed and converted into its final form soon after uploading. Processing may take several minutes or hours depending upon the file size. You do not need to remain on this page after the media has been uploaded, as processing will occur automatically and independently.
3. You may re-order your uploaded media at any time by dragging the slides around. Please supply title and media information by clicking Edit Details.
4. Should you experience difficulties uploading your file, please ensure that you're using a modern web browser (Chrome, Firefox, or Safari) on the fastest wired Internet connection available. An intermittent or slow Internet connection can cause uploads to timeout.

### File Sizes and Types

We support media files as large as 5GB, but please be advised that larger files will take longer to upload from your Internet connection and may stall if you are on a wireless connection or one that cannot sustain a connection for the necessary period of time. Uploaded documents may contain no more than 75 pages. We support the following file formats:

- **Audio:** .aac, .m4a, .mka, .mp3, .oga, .ogg, .wav

Select Files Start Upload

## Tips:

- Read the prompt carefully and practice your response.
- Treat this like an elevator pitch and jump right into the answer.
- Keep it to 40-45 seconds.

# Data Science Prerequisites: Calculus

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## Data Science Prerequisites

### Prerequisites

The M.S. in Data Science has four prerequisites Single Variable Calculus (Calculus I/II), Linear or Matrix Algebra, Statistics, and Programming. Refer to the [Prerequisites Key Topics page](#) for more information about how these may be completed.

We also offer on-demand, virtual certificate bootcamps to meet the linear algebra and calculus prerequisites:  
[Calculus for Data Scientists](#)  
[Linear Algebra for Data Scientists](#)

Prerequisites should be completed, in progress, or have a plan for completion at the time of application; detail how you have met/ plan to meet the prerequisites below.

### Calculus I

How did you meet this prerequisite?

- I have completed or plan to complete the Calculus for Data Scientists Bootcamp
- I have completed a college-level course for a grade
- I have more than one college-level course for a grade that meets this prerequisite
- I have completed the AP Calculus AB or BC exam and earned a score of 4 or 5
- I have IB HL Mathematics with a 5, 6, or 7
- I plan to take this course
- This course is in progress
- Other

Course number and title (e.g. Math 1310 Calculus I):

Institution Name

Grade

Year Completed

OPTIONAL: Upload a syllabus or supporting documentation related to the completion of this prerequisite.  
 No file chosen

### Calculus II

How did you meet this prerequisite?

- I have completed or plan to complete the Calculus for Data Scientists Bootcamp
- I have completed a college-level course for a grade
- I have more than one college-level course for a grade that meets this prerequisite
- I have completed the AP Calculus BC exam and earned a score of 4 or 5
- I plan to take this course
- This course is in progress
- Other

Our prerequisites include:

- Calculus I/II
- Linear Algebra
- Programming
- Statistics

*We offer certificate boot camps for the first three prerequisites.*

You can apply with prerequisites missing or in progress – just tell us how and when you plan to complete them on the application.

# Data Science Prerequisites: Linear or Matrix Algebra & Statistics

## Linear or Matrix Algebra

How did you meet this prerequisite?

- I have completed or plan to complete the Linear Algebra for Data Scientists Bootcamp
- I have completed a college-level course for a grade
- I have more than one college-level course for a grade that meets this prerequisite
- I plan to take this course
- This course is in progress
- Other

Term and Year Completed/ Anticipated (e.g. Summer 2026)

Fall 2026

OPTIONAL: Upload a syllabus or supporting documentation related to the completion of this prerequisite.

Choose File No file chosen

## Statistics

How did you meet this prerequisite?

- I have completed a college-level course for a grade
- I have more than one college-level course for a grade that meets this prerequisite
- I have completed the AP Statistics exam with a score of 4 or 5
- I plan to take this course
- This course is in progress
- Other

Year Completed

2009

OPTIONAL: Upload a syllabus or supporting documentation related to the completion of this prerequisite.

Choose File No file chosen

Linear Algebra is the most common missing prerequisite. You can enter a future term if you plan to do our boot camp.

While we don't have a time limit on prerequisites, if it's been several years, we recommend refreshing yourself on basic concepts ahead of your first term.

# Data Science Prerequisites: Programming Experience

## Introductory Programming

We value self-taught and on-the-job training in programming languages in addition to or in lieu of completing a course. Document your level of proficiency and how you achieved it below. (Note that all incoming students will be required to take a test to demonstrate their proficiency in Python and R prior to the start of classes; refer to our [FAQs](#) for more information.)

I have not yet completed this prerequisite.

OPTIONAL: Upload a syllabus or supporting documentation related to the completion of this prerequisite.

Choose File No file chosen

This is an open-ended box, you can list all your courses, certificates, training, and skills here.

Option to upload proof of certificates (but not required).

# Signature & Review

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In place of your signature, please type your full legal name:

Confirm

You are ALMOST there!

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## Review

We have detected the following errors with your application. These errors must be corrected before submission.

Section	Required Field or Error
<a href="#">Audio File Upload</a>	Audio file upload is required
<a href="#">Prerequisites</a>	Programming prerequisite information is required

Save for Later

This helps review any errors prior to submission.

# Confirmation Email



SCHOOL *of* DATA SCIENCE

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your interest in the University of Virginia School of Data Science. Your application has been received.

**If you submitted your application without paying the application fee and you did not receive a fee waiver, then your application cannot be reviewed unless the fee has been received.**

Please check your application [status](#) to ensure all supplemental materials and the application fee (if applicable) have been submitted and received.

The safety and well-being of our students is among our highest priorities at the University of Virginia. For more information on our safety program please visit our [Community Safety Information](#) page.

Thank you again for your application.

Sincerely,  
UVA School of Data Science

Questions? Email:

[sdsadmissions@virginia.edu](mailto:sdsadmissions@virginia.edu)