

# EXECUTIVE DATA SCIENCE FOR PUBLIC POLICY (MS)

Brooks School of Public Policy

Program Website (<https://publicpolicy.cornell.edu/masters/msdsp/emdsp/>)

CIP: 30.7001 | HEGIS: 2199.00 | NYSED: 44915

## Program Description

The Executive Master of Science in Data Science for Public Policy (EMSDSP) is a hybrid degree designed for professionals who want to lead at the intersection of data, technology, and public policy. Blending synchronous and asynchronous online coursework with in-person sessions on Cornell's campuses, the program offers the flexibility working professionals need while delivering rigorous training in statistical and data science methods, data ethics, and core policy and management competencies. Students learn to work with complex data sources, evaluate emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, and navigate the ethical, regulatory, and societal challenges that accompany rapid technological change.

Through a combination of foundational courses, specialized electives, and a culminating applied capstone, students build the technical fluency and policy insight required to make informed, responsible decisions in data-rich environments. The program prepares graduates for roles across government, nonprofits, international organizations, and mission-driven private-sector settings, whether as data scientists developing analytical tools or policy analysts shaping how those tools are used. By expanding access beyond Ithaca to national and global audiences, the EMSDSP connects professionals with world-class training that empowers them to manage, interpret, and govern data in ways that advance the public good.

## Academic Standards

### Program Policies

Please review Brooks School Policies and Procedures (<https://catalog.cornell.edu/public-policy/#policiesandprocedurestext>) for detailed information on academic policies and requirements, as well as Cornell University Academic Integrity (<https://catalog.cornell.edu/policies-disclosures/academic-integrity/>) policies.

### Academic Standing

Executive master's students are expected to meet the following academic standards:

- Maintain a minimum semester and cumulative grade point average of 3.0.
- Receive a grade of C or better in all courses applied toward degree requirements.
- Carry no more than two incomplete grades at any time.
- Complete at least 6 credits each term, unless an approved petition for a reduced course load has been granted.
- Make satisfactory progress toward completion of a Brooks School master's degree.

For additional information regarding the academic standing review process, refer to the Brooks School Policies and Procedures (<https://catalog.cornell.edu/public-policy/#policiesandprocedurestext>).

## Career Management and Practical Training

A highlight of the EMSDSP program is the capstone project, where students collaborate with faculty to apply their coursework to a real-world work project. This project is strategically important and provides students with valuable hands-on experience in solving complex public administration challenges. Throughout the program, students are supported by Cornell faculty and Executives-in-Residence who serve as mentors, guiding students through their academic journey and capstone projects.

## Program Information

- Program Mode of Delivery: Distance Education
- Program Location: Ithaca, NY
- Minimum Credits for Degree: 30.5

## Program Requirements

A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required for graduation. Students must receive a C or higher in all letter graded courses applying towards the degree. If a course is offered exclusively satisfactory/unsatisfactory (SX/UX), a grade of SX must be obtained.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Core Coursework</b>		
Complete all of the following:		
PUBPOL 5801	Communication for Data Science Executives I	0.5
PUBPOL 5802	Communication for Data Science Executives II	1
PUBPOL 5803	Communication for Data Science Executives III	1
PUBPOL 5804	Communication for Data Science Executives IV	0.5
PUBPOL 5611	Data Analytics and Regression for Executives	2
PUBPOL 5617	Data Programming and Management for Executives	2
PUBPOL 5751	Data Science and AI Modeling for Executives I	1
PUBPOL 5752	Data Science and AI Modeling for Executives II	0.5
PUBPOL 5753	Data Science and AI Modeling for Executives III	0.5
PUBPOL 5971	Data Science and AI Policy Colloquium I	0.5
PUBPOL 5972	Data Science and AI Policy Colloquium II	0.5
PUBPOL 5973	Data Science and AI Policy Colloquium III	1
PUBPOL 5974	Data Science and AI Policy Colloquium IV	0.5
PUBPOL 5841	Data Visualization for Executives I	1
PUBPOL 5842	Data Visualization for Executives II	1
PUBPOL 5551	Ethics of Data Science and AI for Executives I	0.5
PUBPOL 5552	Ethics of Data Science and AI for Executives II	1.5
PUBPOL 5553	Ethics of Data Science and AI for Executives III	1
PUBPOL 5122	Negotiation Skills for Executives	1
PUBPOL 5667	Managing and Leading Organizations I	0.5
PUBPOL 5668	Managing and Leading Organizations II	0.5
PUBPOL 5215	Microeconomics for Executives I	1
PUBPOL 5216	Microeconomics for Executives II	1
PUBPOL 5606	Political Analysis and Policy Process for Executives	1
PUBPOL 5576	Statistics for Public Policy for Executives	2

PUBPOL 5393	Unstructured Data Science Modeling for Executives I	1
PUBPOL 5394	Unstructured Data Science Modeling for Executives II	1

**Capstone Coursework**

Complete all of the following:

PUBPOL 5871	Data Science Capstone I	0.5
PUBPOL 5872	Data Science Capstone II	0.5
PUBPOL 5873	Data Science Capstone III	0.5
PUBPOL 5874	Data Science Capstone IV	0.5
PUBPOL 5875	Data Science Capstone V	0.5
PUBPOL 5876	Data Science Capstone VI	0.5
PUBPOL 5877	Data Science Capstone VII	1

**Elective Coursework**

Complete at least 1 credit of elective coursework from the list below or as approved by the program director. Elective offerings may vary by year.

PUBPOL 5112	Public Administration: A Strategic Planning Perspective for Executives	1
PUBPOL 5122	Negotiation Skills for Executives	1
PUBPOL 5147	Executive Presence for Public Affairs Executives	1
PUBPOL 5174	Navigating Public-Private Partnerships for Executives	0.5
PUBPOL 5403	Media Strategy for Policy Executives	1
PUBPOL 5475	Public Interest Technology for Executives	1
PUBPOL 5533	Human Resource Strategy for Executives	1
PUBPOL 5733	Vulnerability and Resilience Planning for Executives	1
PUBPOL 5767	Cybersecurity for Executive Leaders	1
PUBPOL 5787	Leadership in the Algorithmic Age: AI and Public Policy	0.5
PUBPOL 5853	AI and Digital Transformations for Executives	1

- Transcripts from all colleges or universities attended
- Two letters of recommendation
- Resume
- Statement of purpose
- TOEFL or IELTS scores, if applicable

Visit the Graduate School Admissions site (<https://gradschool.cornell.edu/admissions/prepare/english-language-proficiency-requirement/>) for details on the English language proficiency requirement, including standing exemptions.

## Learning Outcomes

- Interpret and explain the theory and use of tools applicable to the development and evaluation of policy.
- Develop the skills required for effective delivery of evidence used for policy formation and evaluation, including written, spoken, and visual presentation.
- Work with others toward the goal of serving the public interest.
- Foster an inclusive learning environment in which diverse approaches and points of view can help guide government actions.
- Evaluate and scrutinize data to inform policy evaluation.

## Admissions

### Application Requirements and Deadlines

#### Application Deadlines

Please visit the Brooks School website (<https://publicpolicy.cornell.edu/masters/msdsp/emdsp/apply/>) to view application deadlines.

#### Requirements Summary

Each application is reviewed holistically and in the context of the overall applicant pool for that admission cycle. To be considered for admission, applicants must submit a complete application package as outlined below.