PROGRESSIVE DEGREE PROGRAM
COURSE PLAN TEMPLATE

USC SCHOOL	Viterbi School of Engineering
ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT	Computer Science
GRADUATE PROGRAM	Data Science and Law
POST CODE	2041
TERM EFFECTIVE DATE	Fall 2026

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
A brief description of the graduate program.

The Master of Science in Data Science and Law (minimum 32 units) is designed for individuals interested in the convergence of data science and law. The curriculum integrates courses from the Viterbi School of Engineering in data science and machine learning with those from the Gould School of Law in artificial intelligence, intellectual property law, information privacy and internet law.

The program is tailored for individuals with a robust academic background, high professional aspirations, strong personal commitment and effective communication skills that align with the demanding nature of this master's degree program. Individuals who have already obtained a Juris Doctor (J.D.) or equivalent are encouraged to apply.

Curriculum https://catalogue.usc.edu

COMMON BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAM PATHWAYS
A list of common bachelor's degrees that undergraduate students pursue in advance of pursuing a progressive degree option with this graduate program. Some programs are restricted to certain majors while others are open to all students.

Computer Science	Data Science
Political Science	Criminology
Legal Studies	
Various other majors	

PREPARATORY UNDERGRADUATE COURSES
A list of courses at the undergraduate level that prepare students for the graduate program. Required coursework is listed first, followed by recommended courses. If not applicable, this section will be blank.

Dept. Prefix - Course #	**Course Title**	**Required or Recommended**	**Units**
Math 125	Calculus 1	required	4
	Choose ONE of the Statistics courses below	required	
BUAD 310	Applied Business Statistics		4
BUAD 312	Statistics and Data Science for Business		4
MATH 407	Probability Theory		4

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EE 364	Intro to Probability and Stats for Electrical Engineering		4

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES USED TO REDUCE GRADUATE LEVEL UNITS

A list of undergraduate level courses that may be used to reduce the number of graduate level units required for the graduate program. If there are none, that is specified instead.

Dept. Prefix - Course #	Course Title	Units
ITP/TAC 115	Programming in Python	2
ITP/TAC 116	Python for Programmers	2
LAW 210*		2

CORE GRADUATE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (# units required)

A list of all required graduate courses for the graduate program. None of these courses may be used toward satisfying undergraduate degree requirements.

If special exceptions for any of these courses are made by the academic department, the course # is marked with an asterisk (*) and the exception is explained in the "Department Notes" section at the end of this course plan template.

Dept. Prefix - Course #	Course Title	Units
DSCI 549*	Introduction to Computational Thinking and Data Science	**4**
DSCI 510*	Principles of Programming for Data Science	**4**
DSCI 550*	Data Science at Scale	**4**
DSCI Elective		**4**
LAW 520*	**Introduction to U.S. Legal System**	**2**
LAW 552	**Law and the Fundamentals of AI**	**2**
LAW 554	**AI Ethics, Privacy and Regulation**	**2**
LAW 772	**Intellectual Property**	**3**
LAW Electives		**7**
	*CS/DS majors can waive DSCI 510	
	*CS/DS majors must replace DSCI 549 with DSCI 551	
	*CS/DS majors must replace DSCI 550 with DSCI 552	
Total Minimum Units:		**28**

PRE-APPROVED ELECTIVE COURSEWORK

Elective coursework is approved at the discretion of the academic department. Note the following details about the total number and units required of elective coursework.

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11	**TOTAL ELECTIVE UNITS REQUIRED FOR THE TRADITIONAL GRADUATE DEGREE**
11	**TOTAL ELECTIVE UNITS REQUIRED FOR THE PROGRESSIVE GRADUATE DEGREE**

TOTAL UNIT COUNTS AND REQUIRED GRADUATE UNITS

32	**TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED FOR THE TRADITIONAL GRADUATE DEGREE**
6	**TOTAL GRADUATE UNITS THAT MAY BE WAIVED (IF ANY)**
26-32	**MINIMUM NUMBER OF GRADUATE UNITS THAT MUST BE AT THE 500 LEVEL OR ABOVE**

NOTES FROM THE DEPARTMENT
This section highlights any unique considerations, exceptions, or requirements for the graduate program. If a program has specific restrictions (courses, majors, etc.), they are detailed below.

Computer Science/Data Science majors and minors, and students who complete TAC 115/116 may waive DSCI 510 and lower their minimum required units by 4.

In addition, students who complete LAW 210 may waive LAW 520 to reduce their program by 2 units.

Computer Science/Data Science majors should replace DSCI 549 with DSCI 551 Foundations of Data Management and DSCI 550 with DSCI 552 Machine Learning for Data Science.

Kelly Goulis

Authorizing Dean's Name

9/29/2025 | 3:11:14 PM PDT

Date Approved

Senior Associate Dean

Authorizing Dean's Title