

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Credit Unit Statement (CUS) of Taught Programme

Faculty / Offering Unit: School of Computing and Data Science

Programme title: Master of Data Science (MDASC)

Applicable student cohort(s): 2025-26 and thereafter

1. General guideline for contact hours requirement in the MDASC Degree Curriculum

- (a) A 6-credit course has around 120-180 total study hours, including contact hours, study time, assignment and assessment.
- (b) A 3-credit course has around 60-90 total study hours, including contact hours, study time, assignment and assessment.
- (c) About 30% of the total study hours are actual contact hours in the form of a class, e.g. lecture and tutorial/discussion hours.
- (d) A 6-credit course has around 24-36 lecture hours.
- (e) A 3-credit course has around 12-18 lecture hours.
- (f) For lecture-based courses, normally there will be tutorial sessions.
- (g) For courses employing a non-lecture or lab-based approach, e.g. IT-based or project-based courses, students are expected to devote about 60-90 hours for a 3-credit course, 120-180 hours for a 6-credit course, and 240-360 hours for a 12-credit course.

2. Credit Unit Statement of the MDASC Degree Curriculum

Total study load of the curriculum: 1800 learning hours (total contact hours approximately 450 included). The MDASC degree curriculum consists of five major types of courses based on the learning activities. The majority of courses in the programmes are 6 credits. Examples of the contact hour requirements for the five categories of courses are described as follows.

(a) Lecture-based courses (3 or 6 credits)

Contact hours for 6-credit course: 24-36 hours of lectures and/or tutorials

Contact hours for 3-credit course: 12-18 hours of lectures and/or tutorials

These courses are taught predominantly by lectures and tutorials. Assessment is by a combination of examination (0-60%) and continuous assessment (40-100%). Continuous assessment tasks include written assignments (totaling no more than 8,000 words) such as essays and project reports, and oral presentations. The requirement for a 3-credit lecture-based course will be about one-half of that of a 6-credit lecture-based course. Details of the assessment tasks can be found in the description of individual courses.

(b) Lecture with laboratory component courses (6 credits)

Contact hours: 30-36 hours of lectures and/or tutorials

These courses are taught by a combination of lectures and laboratory/practical sessions. Assessment is by a combination of examination (0-60%) and continuous assessment (40-100%). Continuous assessment tasks include coursework (totaling no more than 8,000 words) such as assignments, essays, laboratory reports, and project reports, and oral presentations. Details of the assessment tasks can be found in the description of individual courses.

(c) Project (12 credits)

240-360 of learning hours including 20-30 contact hours (at least 10 meetings with supervisor over two semesters)

This course aims at providing students with an opportunity to pursue their own research interest under the supervision of a teacher. The teacher will meet with the student regularly to discuss project progress. Assessment (by 100% coursework) includes research reports or a dissertation (totaling no more than 20,000 words) and oral presentation on the basis of letter grades and grade points. Details of the assessment tasks can be found in the description of individual courses.

(d) Practicum (6 credits)

180 of learning hours including 160 hours of internship work

Practicum aims to offer students an opportunity to gain work experience related to data science. Students have to undertake at least 160 hours of internship work arranged formally or within their current place of employment for part-time students. Continuous assessment tasks (100%) normally include the following outputs: a written report of no more than 2,000 words and feedback from the internship supervisor and an oral presentation on students' internship experience. Details of the assessment tasks can be found in the description of the course.

(e) Career-related Workshop course (0 credit)

25-32 of learning hours including 15-17 hours of workshop

The course aims to facilitate students in making informed career choices, provide practical training to enrich communication, presentation, time management and advanced interview skills, and to enhance students' overall competitiveness in the employment markets. Students are expected to spend 10-15 hours on coursework. Students will be assessed on a Distinction ($\geq 80\%$)/Pass (50-79%)/Fail ($< 50\%$) basis. Continuous assessment tasks (100%) include mock application for job with a mock interview (10-15 minutes per student), CV and cover letter writing of approximately 1,000 words, and group discussion with presentation of around 2 hours on case studies. Details of the assessment tasks can be found in the description of the course.