THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

Master of Social Sciences in the field of Social Data Analytics
(Applicable to students admitted in the academic year 2024-25 and thereafter)

The Master of Social Sciences in the field of Social Data Analytics consists of a mandatory boot camp and three different categories of courses: (i) compulsory courses, (ii) elective courses, and (iii) capstone project.

Students are required to successfully complete a total of 60 credits, including 5 compulsory courses and 3 disciplinary courses (6 credits each), plus a capstone project (12 credits). Generally, the contact hours and study load for each 6-credit course are 150 hours (including 30-39 contact hours, and around 111-120 hours of other forms of student learning activities), the exact contact hours and output requirements for different categories of courses vary according to the learning modes employed. Students should meet with their supervisor for around 12 hours in total for the 12-credit capstone project.

In total, the contact hours of the Master of Social Sciences in the field of Social Data Analytics range from 270 to 342 hours, and the total study load is around 1470 hours.

1. Boot camp (18 hours, non-credit bearing)

The Master of Social Sciences in the field of Social Data Analytics requires students to attend a mandatory boot camp before the commencement of the degree. The boot camp takes around 18 hours, covering basic knowledge in mathematical techniques (6 hours), programming (3 hours), databases (3 hours) and statistics (6 hours) that are related to social data analytics. No assessment is necessary.

2. Compulsory disciplinary courses (6 credits)

The Master of Social Sciences in the field of Social Data Analytics requires five compulsory courses. Teaching normally takes the form of a 3-hour lectures or a mixture of lectures, tutorials, workshops and seminars each week throughout a regular semester. Outputs normally come in a mix of in-class or take-home essay, project and presentation, plus in-class test and/or examination, totaling around 4,000-6,000 words. (60-100% coursework, 0-40% exam)

3. Elective disciplinary courses (6 credits)

The Master of Social Sciences in the field of Social Data Analytics requires three elective courses. Students should take at least two elective courses offered by the programme, with the possibility to take one elective course from a list of selected courses offered by other programmes in the Faculty of Social Sciences. Teaching normally takes the form of a 3-hour lectures or a mixture of lectures, tutorials, workshops, and seminars each week throughout a regular semester. Outputs normally come in a mix of in-class or take-home essay, project and presentation, reports, plus in-class test, totaling around 4,000-6,000 words. (100% coursework)

4. Capstone project (12 credits; equivalent to two 6-credit courses)

The capstone project course is a component of the Master of Social Sciences in the field of

Social Data Analytics to integrate and apply the knowledge and skills that students have acquired through the programme under the supervision of a teacher. Students will be in regular one-to-one consultation or small group meetings with their teacher (about 12 supervision hours), but are expected to spend much of their time on research and writing. The total student learning activities are around 252 hours. Assessment takes the form of a presentation and a written project of a reasonable length, about 10,000 – 15,000 words. (100% coursework).

September 2023