

BS IN ECONOMICS AND DATA SCIENCE (ECDS) APPLICATION PROCEDURE (Revised February 10, 2023)

I. Overview

There are two paths to admission into the Economics and Data Science major. The first path—**competitive admission**—is for students who do not have access to CSCI 102L and CSCI 103L. The economics department has limited slots available each semester for students in this category. The second path—**direct admission**—is for students who can show registration in CSCI 103.

II. Competitive Admission: Students who do not have access to CSCI 102L and CSCI 103L

Undergraduates who do not have access to CSCI 102L and CSCI 103L may apply at two points in their USC careers: in their second semester as sophomores or in their first semester as juniors (or at both points, if not accepted on the first application). Up to five students for the major will be accepted in each semester.

NOTE: students who have credit for CSCI 102L (or who have passed the challenge exam for CSCI 102L) should enroll in CSCI 103L and follow the procedure (described in part III) for direct admission.

Since some students may have begun their college careers in a spring semester or taken a leave of absence, in any semester there may be both second-semester sophomores and first-semester juniors in the group of applicants.

- A. Class standing:** For purposes of the application requirements, a second-semester sophomore is a currently-enrolled student with at least 32 credits, no more than three previous full-time semesters in college (including all colleges and universities attended), and an expected graduation date of two years (four semesters—excluding summers—beyond the current one) in the future. A first-semester junior is a currently-enrolled USC student with at least 64 credits, no more than four previous full-time semesters in college (including all colleges and universities attended), and an expected graduation date of one and one-half years (three semesters—excluding summers—beyond the current one).
- B. Course progress:** Students accepted into the ECDS major must complete the sequence CSCI 102L/CSCI 103L in the two semesters (excluding summers) following acceptance. Every ECDS majors will take ECON 460 in the fall semester of their senior year at USC (thus, an ECDS major who begins their college career in a spring semester will take ECON 460 in their final semester at USC).

The course progression and timing is required to remain in the major.



- C. Sophomores—application requirements:** The minimum requirements are a GPA of 3.2, a feasible course plan to complete the degree within four years, and credit for ECON 203, ECON 205, MATH 125, and MATH 126. ITP 115 or concurrent registration is preferred. Concurrent registration in ECON 205 or MATH 126 (or both) satisfies the minimum requirement, but credit for these courses is preferred. Selection is based on (i) overall GPA, (ii) GPA in the required courses, and (iii) feasibility of the course plan.

To apply: please submit your application via the Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/KYSroeLhyDpaRmRx7>

(Be sure be sign-in to google with USC Credentials to access the form).

You will be required to upload PDF documents of the following: (i) transcripts of all undergraduate coursework for credit, at USC or elsewhere and (ii) a course plan—**worked out with your academic advisor**—to complete the degree withing the required time fame.

In your online submission, please specify your class standing (sophomore, junior, etc.), you overall GPA at all undergraduate institutions attended, and your grades in required courses. A student not accepted as a sophomore may apply again in the first semester of their junior year.

Application deadline in Spring 2023: Tuesday, February 28, 2023

- D. Juniors: application requirement:** The minimum requirements are a GPA of 3.2, a feasible course plan to complete the degree within four years, and credit for ECON 203, ECON 205, ECON 303, ECON 317, MATH 125, MATH 126, MATH 225, and ITP 115. Concurrent registration in any or all of ECON 205, ECON 303, ECON 317, MATH 225, or ITP 115 satisfies the minimum requirement, but credit for these courses is preferred. Selection is based on (i) overall GPA, (ii) GPA in the required courses, and (iii) feasibility of the course plan.

To apply: please submit your application via the Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/KYSroeLhyDpaRmRx7>

(Be sure be sign-in to google with USC Credentials to access the form).

You will be required to upload PDF documents of the following: (i) transcripts of all undergraduate coursework for credit, at USC or elsewhere and (ii) a course plan—**worked out with your academic advisor**—to complete the degree within the required time fame.

In your online submission, please specify your class standing (sophomore, junior, etc.), you overall GPA at all undergraduate institutions attended, and your grades in required courses.

Note: students who have been accepted into a progressive degree program should submit a plan to complete their undergraduate and progressive degrees within five years plus one semester. The required progression and timing of CSCI 102L/103L and ECON 460 remains the same.

Application deadline in Spring 2023: Tuesday, February 28, 2023

III. Direct Admission: Students who have credit for or are enrolled in CSCI 103L

Students who have credit for CSCI 103L or who can demonstrate enrollment in the course may apply for direct admission to the major at any time. **But please see guidance below.**

To apply: please submit by email to Karina Chicas (kchicas@usc.edu) the following: (i) a transcript showing credit for CSCI 103L or (ii) proof of current enrollment in CSCI 103L.

Application deadline: none.

GUIDANCE FOR STUDENTS WITH DIRECT ADMISSION INTO THE ECDS MAJOR

1. Students who seek direct admittance into the ECDS major are **strongly encouraged to work out a course plan with an academic advisor to graduate within 4 total years of college enrollment.**
2. Students are **strongly discouraged from extending their undergraduate careers beyond four years to complete the ECDS major.**
3. ECON 460, the required capstone course for the ECDS major, is offered only in the fall semester.
4. ECON 460 has substantial prerequisites: ECON 303, ECON 318, MATH 225, and DSCI 250. ECON 460 has a co-requisite of CSCI 103L. Please plan accordingly.
5. At present, DSCI 250 is offered only in the fall semester, so an ECDS student would have to take it one year before registration in ECON 460. DSCI 250 is not offered by the economics department, so please check the schedule of classes.