



Academic Senate

GRADUATE COUNCIL

January 16, 2026

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Viji Santhakumar, Chair
Graduate Council

RE: [Campus Review] (Proposal) Combined Data Science B.S. + Statistics M.S. Program

The Graduate Council reviewed and discussed the proposed Combined Data Science B.S. + Statistics M.S. Program at their January 15, 2026 meeting. The Council feels that transfer students should be given the same accessibility to this program and wondered if that would be the case. If so, the Council suggests this be stated in the proposal.

Starting on page 10 of the proposal, the catalog entry appears to be for a change to the existing undergraduate major in Data Science. Also starting on page 18, the catalog entry appears to be for a change to the existing Joint B.S. + 1 Statistics M.S. Program. These two program changes should be submitted separate from the proposal for a Combined Data Science B.S. + Statistics M.S. Program.

Lastly, the wording throughout the proposal regarding double counting needs to be updated to reflect the approved systemwide language that states double counting is allowed up to 30 percent of the required graduate degree credits taken by a student while an undergraduate at that campus. Please also provide some justification for the double-counting in the proposal. The systemwide language includes potential examples, such as "[making] such programs attractive to a large pool of motivated students and facilitate completion of the Masters within an accelerated time frame (e.g., 1 year)."