

Hybrid Online/On-Campus Program - Frequently Asked Questions

Program related Questions

Q. Will students in the hybrid program get the same diploma as those in the regular program?

Yes. The diplomas for the two programs are exactly the same.

Q. Will the lectures be available to view at a later time?

Yes. If you cannot attend class lectures on the scheduled time, recordings will be made available. However, please refer to each course syllabus as to the preference of the faculty member in terms of attending class live versus watching a pre-recorded session.

Q. Can I take more than the 10 courses required for the degree?

Yes, with the approval of your program adviser.

Q. When can I get University housing?

You will be eligible for university housing once you have completed the online portion of the program and ready to arrive on-campus your subsequent semester. Application for housing will be available mid-October for the spring term. Please note, University-owned housing is very limited and most MA students do not receive housing. To apply for University housing, follow the directions at [University Apartment Housing \(UAH\)](#) .

Please note, Incoming master's students who are granted housing are normally limited to one year of housing and must be enrolled full time in both semesters

Student should also take advantage of Columbia's [Off-Campus Housing Assistance \(OCHA\)](#)  Office which provides assistance in renting housing in New York City as well as a bulletin board on which you can search for prospective roommates who are Columbia students. This is a great resource for MA students as even those that do get housing, typically must seek off campus housing for the final semester. Please note to reach out to OCHA at least a few weeks before you need your housing

Q. Is there a time limit to complete the on-campus portion of the program?

For international students in F-1 status, you are expected to enroll full time in the spring 2016 term and complete the program no later than the fall 2016 term. For others, the maximum duration for the entire portion program is four years.

Q. Once I arrive to campus, can I take other courses online?

For international students in F-1 status, once on campus, F-1 regulations permit you to take one 3-credit online course in the spring term toward your fulltime status and one in the fall term. However, if you are in your final term of the program, your last 3 credits cannot be online. There are also currently no online courses available during the spring semester within the department and the program encourages you to take all classes on campus once you arrive. For any extenuating circumstances, please reach out to your Faculty Adviser.

Q. How many classes should I take during the online portion?

International students are expected to take all the online courses offered during the first semester and achieve 1 Residence Unit (RU) worth of courses for a full time schedule

Visa related questions

Q. If an international student residing abroad is admitted to the Hybrid Program, when can they apply for an I-20?

An international student residing abroad, who is admitted to the Hybrid Program, may apply for an I-20 form for the spring term no earlier than September, following admission to the program.

Q. Can an international student currently in the US in F-1 status at another institution apply for an I-20 form for the Hybrid Program?

As in the response above, a student is eligible for a transfer I-20 in the spring term and may apply no earlier than September, following admission to the program.

Q. For an international student admitted to the Hybrid Program, what is the requirement to be eligible for F-1 status while in the on-campus portion of the program?

The student must register fulltime for the spring term (i.e., 1 Residence Unit (RU)) followed by 1 Extended RU, for the final semester.

Q. Once an international student joins the on-campus portion of the program, when will they be eligible for F-1 Optional Practical Training (OPT)?

Federal regulations require that international students complete two full-time academic terms on campus in F-1 status before they are eligible for OPT. This may include 1 RU in the first semester on campus, and 1 Extended RU in the subsequent second semester on campus.

Q. Does the on-line portion of the program qualify an international student for the I-20 and F-1 student status?

No, the on-line portion of the program does not qualify for the I-20 form or for F-1 student status.

Admissions related questions

Q. Can I be considered for the hybrid program if I am not admitted to the regular on-campus program?

No, the admission criteria are the same for both programs.

Q. If I am waitlisted for the regular on-campus program, can I request to be switched to the hybrid program?

Yes, you just need to contact the GSAS Office of Admissions directly at gsas-admissions@columbia.edu

Q. If I am admitted to the regular on-campus program, can I switch to the hybrid program?

Yes, if there is space available. The hybrid program will be open to a limited number of qualified applicants.

Q. I got admitted to the hybrid program. Can I change my status to the non-hybrid program?

Unfortunately we are not able to transfer your application to the regular on-campus program.

Q. What are the application deadlines for the hybrid program?

The application deadlines for the hybrid program are the same as those of the regular on-campus program. Please refer to the [GSAS Admissions website](#) for all deadline information.

Q. If I have already taken some courses through the School of Continuing Education, can I still apply for the hybrid program and get credit for the courses I already took? If so, do I still need to take 4 online courses?

If you have previously taken some of the online courses through the School of Continuing Education, you only need to take the remaining courses online.

Q. Where can I get additional information about admission requirements and other GSAS policies?

For more general information, please refer to the [GSAS Admissions Information](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#) pages.

Q. What do you look for in an applicant?

The Admissions Committee looks for applicants that have a compelling background in quantitative related fields such as: statistics, mathematics and computer science and have obtained strong grades in relevant quantitative courses. Applicants must also have a thorough knowledge of linear algebra and advance calculus. Experience in theoretical or applied probability and statistics and familiarity in computer programming is also helpful to be successful in this program.

Interested applicants lacking background in these areas should make up the deficiency before applying. We do not offer conditional acceptance into this program.

Q. What is the minimum GPA/GRE Scores for a successful applicant?

There is no minimum GPA or GRE scores set by the department. The Admissions Committee looks competitively at the overall application, along with the grades received in relevant coursework and pre-requisites needed for the program, recommendation letters and other supporting documents.

Q. Do I have to submit TOEFL Scores?

Please refer to the GSAS Admissions website for information on when you must submit TOEFL scores with your application. <http://gsas.columbia.edu/content/information-international-students>. To fulfill the English Proficiency Requirement, GSAS requires a minimum score of 100 on the Internet-based TOEFL (600 on the paper-and-pencil test) or 7.0 on the IELTS test. Please visit the GSAS admission website for more information on the English proficiency requirement.

Q. Can I arrange for a personal interview?

Due to the large number of applications we receive every year we are unable to give face-to face interviews and it is not part of the admissions process.

Q. I applied a while ago and still haven't received my decision. When will I hear back about my status?

Admission decisions are made on a rolling basis, with priority given to early applicants. The majority of M.A. decisions are made by the end of April. Applicants on the waitlist will have to wait until they are contacted directly by the school for any updates.

Q. My application was placed on the waiting list. When will I receive a final decision?

Typically most decisions for applicants on waiting list will be communicated by the middle of May.

Q. Can I submit additional materials to improve my application while placed on the Wait list?

No. If you are on the waitlist, you must simply wait to see if available slots open. You will be contacted if there is an open spot available for you if you remain interested in joining.

Q. What is my number on the waiting list?

We do not have a number system for our waiting list and would not share where you rank on the waiting list. Again, interested applicants will have to wait until they are contacted for more information.

Q. My application was rejected. Can I receive feedback on why?

We appreciate the time and commitment you put into your application; however, we are unable to offer individual feedback on why you did not gain admission into the program. This is a highly selective program and these decisions are made competitively based upon a thorough review of all application materials received.

Q. How many students are enrolled in the program?

The number of enrolled students varies every year according to our admission needs and the number of qualified applications received.

Q. Do Master's students take courses with PhD students?

Generally, MA students cannot take PhD-level courses. However, well-prepared students may be permitted to take certain PhD level course with the approval of the course instructor and their faculty advisor.

Q. Are there TA or RA opportunities for Master's students?

Once you arrive on campus, occasionally there are grader opportunities for certain classes and there is a selection process in place for this. Students who are in the program may apply when these opportunities are announced.

Q. Where do graduates work?

Some of our graduates pursue careers in diverse areas including but not limited to the following: Pharmaceutical Research, Education, Finance, Insurance, Market Research, Public Health and Government, Consulting. With our new arrival of a Career Management Officer, the department will be updating our current alumni information including job placement data.

International students are advised to consult with their ISSO counselors about eligibility requirements to work in the US