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](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 7.5 on the IELTS test. Please visit the [GSAS admission website](http://gsas.columbia.edu/content/information-international-students) 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 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. 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. 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?

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.