

FAQs on Admission to the online MAS program

1. What criteria are used for selecting new MAS students?

The MAS graduate admissions committee considers grades, particularly in quantitative courses, GRE scores, letter of recommendations and statement of purpose. Prior working experience will also be taken into consideration. For international students, the Graduate School (www.gradsch.psu.edu) has a minimum TOEFL score of 550 (paper test) or a score of 213 (computer-based test), a total score of 80 with a 19 on the speaking section (internet-based test), or a minimum composite score of 6.5 on the IELTS.

2. Can I take the online MAS program totally online?

Yes, you can take the online MAS program totally online.

3. What is the application process if I have been admitted to another graduate program at Penn State or have a graduate degree from Penn State?

If you have been admitted to a graduate program at Penn State (including students with a graduate degree from Penn State), then instead of filling the application form to the Graduate School at Penn State again, you will need to submit the *Resume Study/Change of Graduate Degree or Major form* (<http://forms.gradsch.psu.edu/ges/reschg2.pdf>) to the Graduate School. In addition, you will need to ask your graduate program to send a copy of your previous application material to the MAS admissions committee, Department of Statistics, and you need to send us any additional transcripts, your statement of purpose and three letters of recommendation.

4. If I have taken some courses at Penn State as a non-degree student, can they be transferred to the MAS program?

A maximum of 15 eligible credits can be transferred from non-degree to a degree program at Penn State. For example, credits taken to fulfill the Graduate Certificate in Applied Statistics at Penn State may be transferred to the MAS program if the student is granted admission to the MAS program.

5. Can credits from another institution be transferred to the MAS program?

Up to a maximum of 10 credits from another accredited external institution may be considered for transfer to the MAS program. These credits have to be received within the past five years and have not been used to fulfill any other degree requirement. The syllabus and grades of these courses have to be reviewed by the MAS program to determine whether they are eligible to be transferred.

6. What is the Math pre-requisite for the MAS program?

You should be proficient in multidimensional calculus (such as Math 230, see: http://soc.our.psu.edu/soc/advanced_search.cfm) and have knowledge of Matrix Algebra.

7. Is there a thesis for the MAS degree?

There is no thesis requirement for this degree. You will need to complete the MAS capstone project which is a course requirement for the required core course Stat 581.