



# DATA SCIENCE 4+1 CONTRACT

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## Please Note:

**No registrations will be processed until this contract has been signed and returned to the Graduate Admissions Office.**

## **Admissions Process:**

All students will be required to submit a formal application for the 4+1 program, which includes the names of two academic references. The Graduate Admissions Office will also need a student copy of the Mercyhurst transcript, transcripts from any other universities attended, a resume, and a personal statement. Once a student has graduated with their Mercyhurst Bachelor's degree, they will need to submit a new transcript to the Graduate Admissions Office showing award of their bachelor's degree. This action will remove the student from the provisional status in the Master of Science in Data Science degree.

## **Registration Process:**

If provisionally accepted to the Master of Science in Data Science degree, students will be enrolled as a Graduate Non Degree student and will begin fall of junior year taking at least one Master of Science in Data Science graduate course per semester. Students will have two transcripts: undergraduate and graduate non-degree.

In addition to meeting their undergraduate faculty advisor during standard advising times, the 4+1 student will meet with their graduate 4+1 faculty . The 4+1 faculty advisor will sign a registration slip for processing by Graduate Admissions Office. Registration for all graduate courses will be completed by a graduate admissions counselor for each semester that the student is enrolled at both the undergrad and graduate level. Once the student has become a full time graduate student, they will enroll themselves for any remaining terms.

4+1 faculty advisors will identify the specific courses that 4+1 program students should enroll within to complete the degree within one year after completing their bachelor's degree. **Please note: By taking courses out of sequence or not enrolling in the number of courses specified in each semester or during the summer, Mercyhurst University cannot guarantee that the Master of Science in Data Science will be completed in one year.**

## **Registration Status:**

All students must be enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student (4 courses or 12credits) and can take up to 2 graduate level courses (6 credits) per semester, thus putting them at a total credit count of 18 (6 courses) without being over their credit limit for the flat rate. Any credits over the 18-credit count will be considered overloads and be charged accordingly.

All athletes, as a condition of the NCAA eligibility requirements to play, must be enrolled full-time at the undergraduate level (12 credits). If they are to continue playing at the graduate level, they must be registered for 9-credits per semester.

To remain in the program, students must:

- Maintain 3.0 GPA in the all Master of Science in Data Science courses. Only one C is permitted. Students who receive two C's or an F may be dismissed from the program.
- Maintain 3.0 GPA overall in their undergraduate studies
- Complete at least four courses in the Data Science program designed by their graduate faculty advisor . Please note that if a student takes less than six courses, it may not be possible to complete in only one additional year, particularly without taking summer courses.

The graduate courses taken in the junior and senior years can be used to waive corresponding undergraduate program course requirements only with the approval of the chair of the undergraduate program. Students will still be required to meet the 120 credit (or 121 credits beginning 2014) minimum to earn their bachelor's degree. This provides students the opportunity to take additional courses in their major or apply coursework to a minor.

### **Financial Aid/Paying for Courses:**

All students will be billed at the traditional flat rate when completing graduate courses, pursuant to the restrictions in the "Registration Status" section above, within the standard undergraduate fall, j-term, and spring semester courses. Undergraduate financial aid cannot be applied to graduate level courses completed after the bachelor's degree has been awarded. Loans, private pay, or an individual payment plan, worked out through Student Financial Services, are the only options available to students to pay for graduate level courses.

Courses available online during the summer terms would be outside of the flat-rate billing system. To complete both degrees in five years, it will likely be necessary to pursue one or more of the following options:

- Take online graduate courses in the summer between the junior and senior year; and/or
- Take a summer following completion of their bachelor's degree; and/or
- Take a summer course between their first and second year of graduate studies; and/or
- Take one graduate course per semester in the junior year and two graduate courses per semester during the senior year.

Students are able to apply for graduate assistantship and graduate employment positions, but are not eligible to receive one until after they have graduated with their undergrad degree and shown proof of the degree conferred. GA/ GE positions are quite limited; therefore, students are always encouraged to have some sort of back-up plan for paying for graduate school.

### **Expectations:**

All students are expected to adhere to the terms and conditions of this agreement. Students are also expected to complete the Master of Science in Data Science program after completing their Mercyhurst bachelor's degree. As part of this contract prospective students are instructed to meet with the Master of Science in Data Science chair to discuss the program and potential goals of the student, and a financial aid counselor, to discuss costs, fees, and financial aid issues. Both individuals signatures, along with the prospective student's signatures will be needed to fulfill the requirements of this document.

***By signing below I certify that I have read and agree to all terms and conditions of this contract.***

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Program Chair Signature

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Financial Aid Counselor Signature

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature