



BROWN
UNIVERSITY

Population Studies
and Training Center

Master's Program in Social Data Analytics, Sc.M. Graduate Student Handbook

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Master's Program in Social Data Analytics

Overview

Careers in the 21st century increasingly place a premium on the ability to collect, process, analyze, and interpret large-scale data on human attributes, preferences, attitudes, behaviors, and complex systems of human interactions. Such skills have concrete application and relevance to various careers, including market research, program evaluation, policy work, advanced study in the social sciences, and financial analysis. In its latest assessment of labor market trends, the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics expects the number of market research analysts to grow by 19% and data scientists by 36% during the decade of 2021-2031. These rates far outpace average growth in other professions, ensuring great employment opportunities for Social Data Analytics, Sc.M. graduates.¹ The demand for data analysts requires professionals who are technically skilled and thoughtful about how best to use and interpret data.

The master's in Social Data Analytics, Sc.M. program, based in the Population Studies and Training Center (PSTC) at Brown University, trains students in advanced data collection and analysis techniques. The hallmarks of the program are advanced methodological training in both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection and analysis, with cores in spatial analysis and market research, classroom instruction by active and internationally renowned researchers, and individualized supervision of applied, hands-on data analytic research on a faculty project or with an off-campus organization. Through this program, students develop the pragmatic and logical skills that prepare them for a career in social research, whether basic research (such as in academia or research institutions) or applied (such as in policy and market research). Students put these newly developed skills to work, applying the techniques they learn to analyze real social science data.

¹ <https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2023/data-on-display/data-occupations.htm>

Program Goals

The Social Data Analytics, Sc.M. program provides a conceptual and a working knowledge of the various data collection and analysis techniques used for social research in academic and non-academic environments. The program's centerpiece is a rigorous and comprehensive collection of courses: (1) that develop an understanding of the principles underlying the processes of data collection and analysis and (2) that train students in applying advanced statistical techniques for data description and analysis. The concepts and skills learned in these courses are reinforced and supplemented through an optional one-semester-directed internship either on a faculty project or with a local organization.

Broadly, the goals of the program are to:

- Prepare students for problem definition, operationalization, and research design.
- Provide students with conceptual and working knowledge of the various data collection and analysis techniques used for social research in academic and non-academic environments.
- Sensitize students to the sources of sample, measurement, and reporting bias in social and behavioral data.
- Develop effective translational communication and presentation skills.
- Prepare students for collaborative work in team-based settings.

Students in the program acquire the skills and knowledge to design and conduct social research and analyze, interpret, and present research results to inform local, national, and global problems.

General Admission Information

Overview

The Social Data Analytics, Sc.M. program is ideal for early-career individuals with an existing foundation in basic statistics and social science research who seek careers in market or social research or as analysts at research and policy institutions. The program welcomes applications from all candidates with interests and qualifications for pursuing the degree. Applicants are evaluated based on several considerations, including personal essays, official academic transcripts, letters of recommendation, employment history, and personal and professional goals.

Although we cannot pre-screen applications or credentials, we welcome inquiries and questions about the program. Interested students should contact the Director or Associate Director of Graduate Studies for the program. Review of applications to the program begins after the February 1 application deadline.

Course Prerequisites

Applicants to the Social Data Analytics, Sc.M. program should have taken undergraduate courses emphasizing critical thinking skills, scientific or analytic writing, and quantitative or logical thinking. All entering students are required to have completed:

- An introductory statistics course (e.g., SOC 1100: Introductory Statistics for Social Research or an equivalent)
- An advanced course in statistics or a course in college calculus (e.g., MATH 0050 and 0060: Analytic Geometry and Calculus I & II, or MATH 0090: Introductory Calculus, or above, or an equivalent)
- A course in research methods (e.g., SOC 1020: Methods of Social Research or an equivalent)

Transfer Credits

Students who have completed a graduate degree at another institution can count one graduate-level course towards the eight-credit requirement if the course is

equivalent to one of the required or elective courses. Only advanced coursework taken while the student was a graduate student at another institution can count for graduate credit at Brown. Courses taken while the student was an undergraduate cannot transfer, no matter how advanced the coursework was. Likewise, undergraduate courses cannot transfer even if the student completed the course as a graduate student (Brown undergraduates applying to the fifth-year master's program should see *Admission Information Specific to Brown Undergraduates* for information about course transfers).

To gain approval for transfer credit, students must have the course syllabus, graded course materials, an official transcript, and the appropriate application from the Registrar's Office. Students can find the application on the [Registrar's website](#).

Personal Statement and Resume

Each candidate for admission must submit a 600–1000-word personal statement stating why the applicant wants to pursue the Social Data Analytics, Sc.M. degree at Brown. The statement should include examples of past research experiences, professional goals, and how coursework in social data analytics helps the applicant achieve their professional goals. Applicants must also submit a resume.

Letters of Recommendation

Three letters of recommendation are required.

GRE General and Subject Exams

The Social Data Analytics, Sc.M. program requires all applicants, except current Brown undergraduates applying to the 5th-year program, to submit the GRE general exam scores as part of their application. MCAT, GMAT, and LSAT tests may not be substituted for the GRE. However, currently enrolled, full-time Brown medical students may substitute MCAT scores for the GRE scores.

English Language Requirement

The TOEFL or IELTS is required for any non-native English speaker who does not have a degree from an institution where English is the sole language of instruction

or from a university in the following countries: Australia, Bahamas, Botswana, Cameroon, Canada (except Quebec), Ethiopia, Ghana, Ireland, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, New Zealand, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Tanzania, Gambia, Uganda, United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales), West Indies, Zambia.

The recommended minimum TOEFL scores for admission are 577 on the paper-based test, 233 on the computer-based test, or 90 on the Internet-based test. The recommended minimum IELTS overall band score is 7. We do NOT accept the TOEFL at-home version or the IELTS Indicator exam. However, we do accept the TOEFL ITP Plus exam for students in mainland China.

STEM Designation

The Social Data Analytics, Sc.M. program is a STEM-designated (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) program under the Behavioral and Decision Sciences category, Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) code 30.1701.

Admission Information Specific to Brown Undergraduates

Overview

The fifth-year Social Data Analytics, Sc.M. degree allows Brown undergraduates to pursue a master's degree after completing their bachelor's degree. Rising juniors and seniors interested in pursuing a fifth-year master's should contact the Director or Associate Director of Graduate Studies. Students must apply for the fifth-year program before they complete their undergraduate studies. Applications for the fifth-year program close on May 1 and are reviewed on a rolling basis beginning on March 1st and ending on May 31st. Brown undergraduates admitted to the fifth-year Social Data Analytics program can defer their admission for up to two years.

Brown Transfer Credits

Brown undergraduate students who enter the program as fifth-year master's students may count up to two approved undergraduate courses towards the eight credit requirements. Students interested in the fifth-year program should consult with the Director or Associate Director of Graduate Studies regarding courses that can be used to count toward the degree requirements.

Fifth-Year Fellowship

Brown undergraduate students who enter the program as fifth-year master's students are eligible for a fellowship to cover two tuition units over the course of the program. One tuition unit will be allocated per semester.

The fellowship is applied only toward tuition. Students will be responsible for the payment of any additional fees charged each semester, as well as the remainder of their tuition not covered by the fellowship.

Students will need to maintain satisfactory progress toward their degree to be eligible for the fellowship in the second semester. Details about maintaining satisfactory progress, which includes maintaining a “B” average, can be confirmed with the Student Affairs Manager.

Letters of Recommendation

Two letters of recommendation are required for fifth-year applicants.

GRE General and Subject Exams

Fifth-year applicants are not required to take the GRE.

Financial Aid for Fifth-Year Students

Undergraduate financial aid awards do not extend into the fifth-year program.

Degree Requirements

One-Year Course of Study

Students must complete all degree requirements within one year (two consecutive semesters). For example, the norm is for a student to matriculate in the fall semester and complete the degree by the end of the following spring semester (one academic year). However, if a student matriculates in the spring semester, they must complete the degree by the end of the fall term (one calendar year).

Required Coursework and Research Internship

The Social Data Analytics, Sc.M. program requires eight courses: three core courses and five elective courses, including an optional intensive research internship/faculty Directed Research Practicum (see *Table 1* below).

Core Courses

Three core graduate courses are required: PSTC/SOC 2010 Multivariate Statistical Methods I, PSTC/SOC 2020 Multivariate Statistical Methods II, and PSTC 2210 Advanced Research Design for Social Science.

Elective Courses

Beyond the core requirements, students must select five additional elective courses from a pre-approved list of courses offered by the PSTC, Sociology, Anthropology, Economics, and Public Health. This list will be distributed over the summer before orientation. The elective component of the program allows students to gain greater depth in a core area and/or to broaden their experience in areas related to but not directly covered by core courses. Elective courses can be chosen from three broad areas: qualitative analysis, spatial analysis, and demographic analysis (*Table 1*). Students may petition the Director or Associate Director of Graduate Studies to take one advanced analysis course not on the pre-approved list as an elective methods course.

Table 1. Sampling of Elective Courses for the Sc.M. in Social Data Analytics

<i>Qualitative Analysis</i> Applied Evaluation Methods (PSTC 2001) Ethnographic Research Methods (PSTC 2940) Focus Groups for Market and Social Research (SOC 1117) Ethnography: Theory and Practice (SOC 2250) Cultural Theory and Methods (SOC 2260T) Ethnography in Organizations (ANTH 1327) Context Research for Innovation (ANTH 1941)
<i>Spatial Analysis</i> Principles and Methods of Geographic Information Systems (PSTC 1340) Geographic Information Systems and Spatial Analysis for the Social Sciences (PSTC 2612) Applications in Geographic Information Systems (PSTC 2961B) The Geography of Urban Inequality (SOC 1873G) Spatial Thinking in Social Science (SOC 2610) Spatial Data Analysis Techniques in the Social Sciences (SOC 2960G) Advanced GIS and Spatial Analysis (ANTH 2202)
<i>Demographic Analysis</i> Market and Social Surveys (SOC 1120) Market Research in Public and Private Sectors (SOC 1260) Social Stratification, Inequality, and Mobility (SOC 2030) Principles of Population (SOC 2080) Techniques of Demographic Analysis (SOC 2230) Event History Analysis (SOC 2240) Statistical Methods for Hierarchical and Panel Data (SOC 2960S) Causal Analysis (SOC 2960Y) Computational Methods for Social Scientists (SOC 2961M)

**Course offerings rotate every year. Some courses on this table may not be offered in a given semester, and other courses not listed may be offered.*

Research Internship Elective

Students may elect to enroll in a faculty Directed Research Practicum² (PSTC 2982) in the first or second semester in conjunction with a research internship. The internship provides students with hands-on experience in social research.

Internship experiences may occur outside the department (either off-campus with a local organization in the for-profit or not-for-profit sector or an on-campus organization) or on a faculty member's research project. Activities may range from data collection, entry, file management, descriptive analyses, and more advanced

² Due to visa restrictions, international students are only eligible to participate in on-campus internships.

model estimation. Students sometimes opt to design a project under the supervision of a faculty member.

Internship experiences should be at sites (or with faculty) appropriate to one's career goals. Students should work closely with the Associate Director of Graduate Studies to choose an internship site representing a "good fit" with their personal and professional needs, values, and interests. We encourage students to seek out internship opportunities on their own. Students should contact potential sites or faculty members and schedule informational interviews. The Associate Director, the [Swearer Center](#), and the [Center for Master's Student Excellence](#) can also assist you in securing an internship.

Students should work closely with the Associate Director throughout this process and to receive final approval of the proposed research internship. Academic and off-campus research internships typically entail 5-10 hours of work per week and may or may not involve compensation.

To earn course credit, students may enroll in an elective faculty Directed Research Practicum course (PSTC 2982). The Directed Research Practicum aims to supplement the hands-on research internship with directed readings and synthesis of methodological and analytical techniques that are most pertinent to the specific internship experience. Students meet weekly with the faculty director of the research practicum. Faculty member directors need not be involved with the internship work (i.e., the internship is off-campus or with an on-campus organization not affiliated with the PSTC). However, they may be if the student works on a faculty member's research project.

Students need to plan their research internship requirement several weeks to a month before starting the semester (the internship can be completed either in the fall or spring semester). While there are no strict due dates or deadlines, students should follow the timeline detailed in *Table 2* to secure an internship and a faculty director before the second week of the semester.

Table 2. Research Internship Requirement Timeline

<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>Action Needed:</i>
4 to 6 weeks before the start of the semester	• Seek out internship opportunities • Contact the Associate Director of Graduate Studies for advice and assistance locating an internship.
A week before the semester begins	• Secure internship • Get final approval from the Associate Director • Begin to contact potential faculty member directors
The first or second week of the semester	• Secure faculty member director • Enroll in PSTC 2982 • Meet with a faculty member to discuss practicum expectations and determine weekly meeting times

Course Sequencing

The table below (*Table 3*) provides alternative course sequences for two example students in the program. PSTC 2010 and PSTC 2210 are always offered in the fall, and PSTC 2020 is offered each spring. The relative timing of the other courses can vary across years.

Table 3: Example Course Sequencing for Sc.M. in Social Data Analytics

<i>Example 1: Traditional master's student with no transfer courses</i>	<i>Example 2: Fifth-year master's student with two transfer courses</i>
Semester I PSTC 2010: Multivariate Stats I SOC 1873G: Geo. of Urban Inequality PSTC 2210: Adv. Research Design PSTC 2001: Applied Eval. Methods Semester II PSTC 2020: Multivariate Stats II SOC 1117: Focus Groups SOC 2961M: Comp. Methods PSTC 2961B: Applications in GIS	Semester I PSTC 2010: Multivariate Stats I PSTC 1340: Principles of GIS PSTC 2210: Adv. Research Design Semester II PSTC 2020: Multivariate Stats II SOC 1260: Market Research ANTH 1941: Context Research

Optional Tracks

The Social Data Analytics, Sc.M. program offers tracks that allow students to specialize in one of three methodological areas. The tracks are: Qualitative Analysis, Spatial Analysis, and Demographic Analysis. The track name will appear in parentheses at the end of the official transcript below the program name, for example, *Social Data Analytics (Spatial Analysis)*. The completion of a track signals to potential employers strength and expertise in a particular set of methods. Students who wish to pursue a track must either take at least four of their elective courses from an approved list of courses for that track; or take three approved courses from that track plus one pre-approved course from another track. Students may only select one track. Students applying to a track must do so by the end of the first week of classes in their second semester. Students are not required to select a track and may opt for general mixed-method training.

The **Qualitative Analysis** track consists of a range of courses focused on the collection and analysis of textual data that come from a wide range of sources, including in-depth interviews, focus groups, extended observation of individual and group interactions, and social media. The **Spatial Analysis** track is focused on the use of specialized software applications for describing, displaying, and analyzing spatial data. The track also includes courses in the application of advanced statistical modeling techniques for identifying patterns and relationships in spatial data and for analyzing multilevel data with a spatial component. The **Demographic Analysis** track provides training in the collection and analysis of sample survey data, and methods for analyzing population and large databases for assessing and projecting consumer behavior and demand. It also includes coursework in advanced statistical methods for analyzing cross-sectional and longitudinal data with applications to individual and household behavior.

Table 4 lists a sampling of courses that meet the requirements of each of the three tracks. In any given academic year, not all of the courses listed in the table are offered, and new courses not listed may be offered. Students who are interested in pursuing a track need to choose their courses carefully in consultation with a program advisor. In exceptional cases, a course taken outside of the pre-approved

list can be used to meet a track requirement with the permission of the Director or Associate Director of Graduate Studies.

Table 4: Example Courses for the Qualitative, Spatial, and Demographic Analysis Tracks

Qualitative Analysis (4 courses from list, or 3 + SOC 1120 or SOC 1260)
Applied Evaluation Methods (PSTC 2001) Ethnographic Research Methods (PSTC 2940) Focus Groups for Market and Social Research (SOC 1117) Ethnography: Theory and Practice (SOC 2250) Cultural Theory and Methods (SOC 2260T) Ethnography in Organizations (ANTH 1327) Context Research for Innovation (ANTH 1941)
Spatial Analysis (4 courses from list, or 3 + 1 from Demographic Analysis list)
Principles and Methods of Geographic Information Systems (PSTC 1340) Geographic Information Systems and Spatial Analysis for the Social Sciences (PSTC 2612) Applications in Geographic Information Systems (PSTC 2961B) The Geography of Urban Inequality (SOC 1873G) Spatial Thinking in Social Science (SOC 2610) Spatial Data Analysis Techniques in the Social Sciences (SOC 2960G) Advanced GIS and Spatial Analysis (ANTH 2202)
Demographic Analysis (4 courses from list, or 3 + 1 from Spatial Analysis list)
Market and Social Surveys (SOC 1120) Market Research in Public and Private Sectors (SOC 1260) Social Stratification, Inequality, and Mobility (SOC 2030) Principles of Population (SOC 2080) Techniques of Demographic Analysis (SOC 2230) Event History Analysis (SOC 2240) Statistical Methods for Hierarchical and Panel Data (SOC 2960S) Causal Analysis (SOC 2960Y) Computational Methods for Social Scientists (SOC 2961M)

Human Subject Ethics Training

As part of the requirements for the Social Data Analytics, Sc.M. degree, all students must complete basic online human subjects certification training through the [Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative \(CITI\)](#). The program provides training in the responsible conduct of research with human subjects. Students must complete *Initial Education Course, Group 1: Social-Behavioral-Educational*

Researchers of the CITI program and forward their certificate of completion to the Student Affairs Manager by **October 31**. Students who fail to complete training by the deadline will be placed on Academic Warning.

Academic Policies and Procedures

Academic and Student Codes of Conduct

Brown University expects all graduate students to be aware of and conduct themselves according to the principles of the Brown community as outlined in the Academic and Student Conduct Codes. All incoming graduate students are required to take an online course on the rules of conduct defined in the Academic Code, Graduate Student Edition, and the Student Conduct Code, which pertains to all students.

- [Academic Code, Graduate Student Edition](#)
- [Student Conduct and Community Standards](#)

Academic code concerns and violations will be addressed in consultation with the Division of Master's and Professional Programs and, when necessary, International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS).

Grades and Course Credit

Students receive letter grades of A, B, or C (no pluses or minuses) or no credit (NC). NCs do not appear on the permanent external record (transcript). However, NCs and late withdrawals from courses appear on the Internal Academic Record. Information appearing on the Internal Academic Record is used to determine a student's academic standing.

Brown offers the option of registering for a course as Satisfactory/No Credit (S/NC). However, Social Data Analytics students must take all courses for a letter grade, with the exception of PSTC 2982, which may be taken S/NC or for a grade.

Degree Progression and Academic Standing

Students must complete all degree requirements within one year (two consecutive semesters). At the end of the first semester of study, the Director and Associate Director of Graduate Studies will consult with instructors to assess all students' academic standing. Academic standing is assessed using the criteria below:

- **Good** - Student is making timely and exemplary progress toward degree requirements and achieving a letter grade of A in most/all classes.
- **Satisfactory** - Student is making sufficient progress toward degree requirements and achieving a letter grade of A or B in all classes.
- **Warning** - Student is not making timely or sufficient progress toward degree requirements (e.g., received a grade of C in one or more classes, received a grade of NC or INC in one or more classes, did not complete the CITI human subject ethics training requirement). Action is required to improve academic performance.

To advance to the program's second semester, students must pass all courses with a grade of C or higher. Students who receive an NC or INC in their first semester of study will be placed on Academic Warning and must complete any missing work before the beginning of the second semester. Missing or incomplete coursework in the second semester will result in failure to complete the degree.

Accessibility and Accommodations

Brown University is committed to the full inclusion of all students. For students with disabilities, [Student Accessibility Services \(SAS\)](#) provides accommodations and support. Please contact SAS early in the term if you may require accommodations or modification of any course procedures. Once accommodations are approved, notify your instructors and discuss the details relevant to each course.

Students can request accommodations through [Accomodate](#), Brown's online platform for requesting, reviewing, and managing disability-related accommodations. *Accomodate* provides a centralized way for students, faculty, and SAS to coordinate accommodation requests and implementation.

To learn more, reach out to SAS at sas@brown.edu, 401-863-9588, or visit the [SAS website](#). If you have any digital accessibility concerns, you can contact the ADA/504 Coordinator by emailing ada_504@brown.edu or filling out the [Digital Accessibility Concern Reporting Form](#). For additional concerns or questions, master's students may contact one of the deans in the Division of Master's and Professional Programs:

- **Joel Revill** – Deputy Dean for Academic and Student Affairs,
joel_revill@brown.edu
- **Janaé Victoria** – Assistant Dean of Student Affairs,
janae_victoria@brown.edu

Grievances

Students may disagree with faculty actions related to evaluating academic progress. The program encourages students to discuss their concerns directly with their instructors as early as possible to explore resolutions. If concerns persist, students should immediately contact the Director and Associate Director of Graduate Studies or one of the deans in the Division of Master's and Professional Programs. Confidential conflict resolution resources are provided by the [University Ombuds office](#).

The [University's Faculty Rules and Regulations Handbook](#) has a detailed description of grievance procedures that faculty are obligated to follow.

Program-Specific Resources and Support

Advising and Mentoring

The Director and Associate Directors of Graduate Studies for the Social Data Analytics program are the academic advisors for the master's program. The role of the academic advisor is to meet regularly with the student, provide guidance on the student's academic and career goals, and help with the selection of courses. In addition, the advisor works with the student to identify and discuss any challenges in the program, helps with the identification and selection of an internship, and serves as a resource to the student for general professional development advice, mentorship, and academic advocacy.

While Social Data Analytics students should secure another faculty member to serve as the director of their research practicum, their primary academic advisor can also serve in this role.

Communication

All electronic communications, including essential billing matters, will be sent to students' Brown University email addresses. The Student Affairs Manager and the PSTC keep students informed via email of progress in the program, guest speaker events, professional development opportunities, and potential job/internship leads.

In addition, students in the program have access to a [private intranet](#), which hosts information about upcoming events, career resources, academic support, financial support, and more.

Colloquia and Guest Speakers

Students in the Social Data Analytics program are encouraged to attend guest speaker talks sponsored by the PSTC, the Spatial Structures in the Social Sciences (S4), Sociology, Anthropology, Economics, and Public Health.

Conference and Professional Development Funding

The MSDA Professional Development Fund was created to help students in the Social Data Analytics program access professional development opportunities such

as conferences, training workshops, fieldwork, and other scholarly activities. For more information and how to apply, visit the [MSDA Professional Development Fund Policies and Criteria page](#).

Mencoff Hall Access and Computing Resources for Students

Students in the Social Data Analytics program have 24/7 card access to Mencoff Hall. Students are welcome to meet up and study in the lobby or student lounge, stow their belongings in available lockers, and use the second-floor kitchenette. Please email the Student Affairs Manager if you are interested in using a locker. The PSTC offers state-of-the-art services and facilities that students are welcome to use. A comprehensive list of services, hardware, and software available can be found on the [PSTC's website](#). Additional information about campus and community resources available to all Brown master's students can be found on the [Master's Programs website](#).

Network ID

All students at Brown are assigned a network ID for receiving email and for accessing the University network. Students are given a student ID number in their registration materials (beginning with SIS). Use the SIS number to activate the network ID through the [Brown MyAccount website](#).

Faxing/Copying

For occasional faxing, please ask the Student Affairs Manager in the PSTC for assistance. Students may use PSTC copiers if they are working with a faculty member.

Mailing Address

All students in the program may receive their postal mail at the Population Studies and Training Center, Brown University, Box 1836, 68 Waterman Street, Providence, RI 02912. Mailboxes are located in the PSTC computer lab above the printer. Students must check their mailboxes regularly, particularly for official University and department correspondence.

Academic and Student Support

Language and Writing Assistance

One of the program's priorities is for students to become competent in written and oral communication of scientific thinking. While course requirements support and develop these skills within the Social Data Analytics program, we encourage students to take full advantage of resources provided by the [Center for Language Studies \(CLS\)](#) and the [Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning](#).

CLS: Students whose primary language is not English can use the opportunities provided at Brown to improve their command of spoken and written English. Located on the 2nd Floor of 195 Angell Street, CLS sponsors various events each year, including roundtable discussions, workshops, lectures, colloquia, and conferences. The Center functions as the University liaison to the Consortium for Language Teaching and Learning, facilitating contacts between faculty at its member institutions, providing funds for projects, and convening workshops and conferences on topics pertinent to the profession.

English Language Support: The Sheridan Center offers a suite of services to support students whose primary language is not English, including English language workshops, individual language support, the Conversation Partners Program, and the English Language Pre-Orientation program. Programming information can be found on the [Sheridan Center's website](#). All students whose native language is not English are highly encouraged to register for the Sheridan Center's [Asynchronous English Language Workshop program](#).

Writing Center: All students are encouraged to make full use of the [Brown Writing Center](#). Brown's Writing Center, operated by the Sheridan Center, provides free individual and group writing support to any member of the Brown community. Writing Center associates assist students with all stages of the writing process, from finding a topic through drafting, revising, and final editing. Writing Center staff are experienced writers and teachers participating in ongoing composition theory and practice training. Associates can help writers deal with writer's block, audience awareness, argumentation, organization, grammar, research skills, the

conventions of academic writing, English as a Second Language, and issues of clarity and style. Appointments are required and should be made 2-3 days in advance.

Health and Wellness Assistance

At Brown, we care about and work with our students to support their success. We encourage you to reach out for help if you need it. A list of health and wellness resources—including crisis support, food support, family resources, health services, and leaves of absence—can be found on the [Master's Programs website](#). If you are unsure where to go or what your question is, you can reach out to the Director or Associate Director of Graduate Studies, or one of the deans in the Division of Master's and Professional Programs:

- **Joel Revill** - Deputy Dean for Academic and Student Affairs,
joel_revill@brown.edu
- **Janaé Victoria** - Assistant Dean of Student Affairs,
janae_victoria@brown.edu

Brown ID Card

Brown requires all students to obtain an official Brown identification card. The information on the front of the Brown Card includes name, photograph, expiration date, barcode, Brown ID number, Banner ID Number, ISO number, and numeric barcode number. This card allows access to Brown University buildings, services, University libraries, and copy machines, as well as to obtain after-hours access to Mencoff Hall.

Upon arriving to campus, please visit the Brown Card Office (Page-Robinson Hall, 69 Brown Street, 5th floor, Room 511) to obtain your Brown ID card.