

# PATHWAYS MINORS

# DATA AND DECISIONS



## What is it?

Today's students are tomorrow's doctors, lawyers, politicians, industrial leaders, patients, parents, volunteers, and neighbors who will make important decisions that will impact both themselves and our society. To make these decisions, data serve as an important resource for gathering "objective" information and evaluating risk (or lack thereof) from multiple perspectives. Students in this minor will **develop skills to think critically and use data responsibly to formulate judgements** beyond their personal inferences/preferences.

## Why do it?

At the completion of this minor, students will be able to consume and use data responsibly, ethically, collaboratively, effectively, and efficiently. Such skills are both marketable professionally and useful within personal lives. That is, having data literacy is essential for living productive and healthy lives in the 21st century.



## Who is it for?

This minor is intended to teach **all students, regardless of quantitative skills, interests, and major**, and provide the opportunity to learn and apply fundamental concepts related to data and decisions.

### Pathways Core Concepts

- 1a - Advanced/Applied Discourse
- 3 - Reasoning in the Social Sciences
- 5f - Foundational Quantitative and Computational Thinking

### Pathways Integrative Concepts

- Ethical Reasoning
- Intercultural and Global Awareness

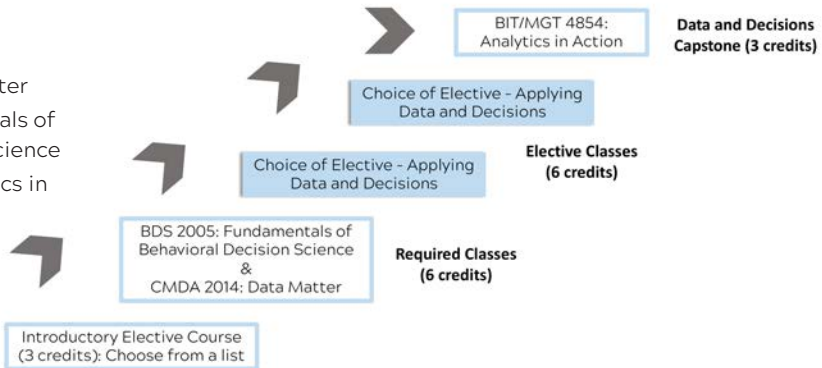
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## Requirements

The 18-credit hour minor in Data and Decisions includes 3 hours of introductory restricted electives, 6 hours of core requirements, 6 hours of elective courses selected from a list, and a 3 hour capstone course.

## Required courses

CMDA 2014: Data Matter  
BDS 2005: Fundamentals of Behavioral Decision Science  
BIT/MGT 4854: Analytics in Action



## Elective courses

Students select 3 hours of introductory restricted electives, as well as another 6 credit hours of elective courses from topics such as environmental informatics, introduction to remote sensing, social research methods, digital history, data governance, and privacy and ethics. For a complete list of elective courses, consult the checksheet at <https://registrar.vt.edu/graduation-multi-brief/index1.html>.



- Get exposure to broad applications of data and decisions methods.
- Practice applying basic math and computational skills that can be used in realistic scenarios.
- Experience and apply analytic tools while also developing field specific expertise.
- Collaborate in interdisciplinary teams to address problems with human and organizational issues.

[www.pathways.prov.vt.edu/minors](http://www.pathways.prov.vt.edu/minors)

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PATHWAYS TO GENERAL EDUCATION