

Doctoral Student Registration Guidelines
Michigan Program in Survey and Data Science (MPSDS)

First year doctoral students must be registered full time for the fall and winter terms. Among other things, this will help them prepare for the qualifying examination.

A student who has earned a masters degree in Survey Methodology, can either take classes for a letter grade or officially register for courses without earning a letter grade (audit) if approved by the student's academic adviser. The student must be registered for a minimum of 6 credit hours, in addition to the doctoral seminar (which is taken on a pass-fail basis). International students must be registered for a minimum of 6 hours if appointed as a GSRA or GSI and registered for a minimum of 8 hours if not appointed as a GSRA or GSI. Domestic students who have been appointed as a GSRA or GSI must be registered for a minimum of 6 credit hours.

A student who has **NOT** earned a masters degree in Survey Methodology must take a full time course load (6-8 hours) for a letter grade in all courses except the doctoral seminar which is taken on a pass-fail basis. Classes beyond the 6-8 credit hour minimum can be audited (i.e., not taken for a letter grade), with approval of the student's academic adviser. It is acceptable, however, for students to register for more courses taken for a letter grade.

The courses a student takes in year one of their doctoral program must be relevant to preparation for passing the qualifying exam (i.e. Survey Methodology courses). If in consultation with the faculty adviser it is determined that the student does not need specific course content, the student can register for pre-candidacy hours (SurvMeth 900) to bring them to full time enrollment.

Second year doctoral students should also be registered full time for the fall and winter terms. As year two will be spent preparing to advance to candidacy, it is up to the student's academic adviser to approve the courses that a student plans to register for. Classes can be taken for a letter grade or audited if approved by the student's adviser. Student's must be registered for 6-8 credit hours based on their status as a domestic or international student and whether or not they are appointed as a GSI or GSRA (just as with first year students).

Candidacy Requirements: Doctoral students must complete a minimum of 18 credit hours of graded (including courses for which a student receives a "S" Satisfactory) graduate coursework registered as a Rackham student prior to advancing to candidacy. Pre-candidacy (SurvMeth 990) and audited (visited) classes will not count toward this requirement. Credit hours earned as a student in a University of Michigan, Rackham MS program (i.e. MPSDS MS degree) count toward this requirement. Students should keep this requirement in mind when deciding whether or not to take a course for a letter grade or audit (visit). Doctoral students must also complete 3 hours of graduate cognate coursework (grade B- or better). The cognate requirement can be met by taking a cross-listed course or "in spirit" from coursework outside U-M.

Once a student advances to candidacy, they must register for 8 hours of SurvMeth 995 – Candidacy each term until they complete their degree requirements. Students must earn an “S” (Satisfactory) each term they are registered for Candidacy. Failure to make satisfactory progress may result in a student being placed on academic probation.

When a student enrolls in "Candidacy 995," they can take one additional course per full term without paying additional tuition. If they do not elect an additional course during that term, the additional course is “banked” and a student may then select two additional courses during a subsequent term of Candidacy 995 enrollment. Students should work with their adviser regarding appropriate coursework during candidacy.

All doctoral students, whether pre-candidates or candidates, must be on campus and available for departmental activities including orientation, doctoral seminars, and brown bag seminars starting the first day of scheduled classes of both fall and winter terms.
