# How to enter a program in Computer Science, Mathematics or Statistics at UTSC

This document is written for high school students who are interested in joining us in Fall 2021

Hello.  We are glad that you are interested in our department. We have made some exciting changes which will result in a new first year experience starting this September.

Students at the University of Toronto can specialize in a subject, eg. Math, by taking a Major or Specialist in that area. You apply for Majors and Specialists after completing your first year.  At that time, having taken our introductory level courses, you will have a better idea of where you want to focus the rest of your studies.

The Department of Computer and Mathematical Sciences (CMS for short) delivers Major and Specialist programs in three areas: Computer Science, Mathematics and Statistics.  These include some of the most popular programs at UTSC, and usually the number of students who apply at the end of their first year is much higher than the number of students that we can accommodate.  So it is important that you understand how we will decide who is admitted to these programs.

We have made major improvements to this process for students in your cohort.  Your letter of admission from high school will specify an admission category: either Computer Science, Mathematics or Statistics.  At the end of first year, if you apply for a program in the same area as that admission category, then it will be easier for you to be admitted than for students outside of that category.  If you come here in, for example, the Computer Science admission category, then you can be confident that you will be able to enter the Computer Science Major or Specialist so long as your first year grades meet a certain level which demonstrates that you have the background to succeed in the program.

Once again, just to be clear: If you're considering joining us, you've probably already been admitted into UTSC based on your high school grades – congratulations!  But there is a second admission process at the end of first year.  This document describes the admission criteria that we will use in that second admission process for CMS programs.

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**Admission categories**
When you are admitted to UTSC, you are admitted to an *admission category*.  For example, students coming to the CMS Department in Fall 2021 will be admitted to one of three categories: Computer Science, Mathematics, or Statistics. This admission category indicates your status for your first year of studies.  It does not imply what your program of study will be.

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**How to enter a program of study**
After completing first year, you will apply to *Major and Specialist programs*. (Also *Minors*, but we won't focus on those here.) For example, some of you will apply for a Computer Science Major, others might apply for a Math Specialist.

If you are in a certain admission category, then you will be admitted into the corresponding Major if your grades in the required A-level courses meet a certain level (specified below). We have reserved enough space to admit everyone from the corresponding admission category.  This means that you will not have to compete with your classmates for a spot in the Major.  You can work together, confident that if you all obtain the required grades then you can all continue to study the subject area of your admission categories.

We anticipate that the vast majority of students in each admission category will meet these grade requirements.

Admission to the Specialist in Math and CS is similar, but the Specialist in Statistics is different – more details below.

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**What if you decide you want a program that does not correspond to your admission category?**
In each program, we plan to have room for students from other admission categories.  For example, if you are in the Math admission category but after taking some classes decide that you want to pursue a Statistics Major, then you can apply.  It could be harder for you to be admitted to the Statistics Major than for a student who is in the Statistics admission category.  You will need to compete for one of a limited number of spaces in the program. But it is possible.

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**Summary:**
In short, if you are admitted to a particular CMS admission category then there is room for you in the corresponding Major.  You just need to achieve specific grade requirements, and we think you will likely succeed.   If you want to apply to a different CMS program, it is possible to do so but you will be competing with other applicants.

# Computer Science admission requirements

There are a total of 200 spaces available in the Computer Science Major and Specialist (combined).  In order to apply, you must have completed 4.0 credits, including all required A-level CSC and MAT courses.  Those courses are: CSCA08, CSCA48, MATA22, MATA31, MATA37 and either CSCA67 or MATA67 (really the same course, but with two labels).

**For students who are in the Computer Science admission category:**

*What you need:*
1. A grade point average of at least 2.5 across the following five courses:  CSC/MATA67, CSCA48, MATA22, MATA31, MATA37
2. A grade of at least B in CSCA48
3. A grade of at least C- in two of CSC/MATA67, MATA22, MATA37

We anticipate that most of the students in the CS admission category will meet these admission requirements.

*What this will get you:* You will be admitted to your choice of the Computer Science Major or the Software Engineering and Comprehensive streams of the Computer Science Specialist if you achieve all of the above grades. There are a limited number of spaces in the Information Systems stream and the Entrepreneurship stream.  Admission to those will be based on A-level grades and, for the Entrepreneurship stream, supplemental application materials.

**For students who are in other admission categories:**

We anticipate approximately 50 spaces available for students from other admission categories.  The number of spaces will vary from year to year, depending on the number of successful applicants from the Computer Science admission category.  Students will be selected for admission to these spaces based on their grades in the required courses.

*Mathematics and Statistics:* Students in the Mathematics or Statistics admission categories may apply for one of these remaining Computer Science spaces upon completion of the required courses.

*All other Admission Categories (outside of CMS):* You are eligible to apply for one of the remaining Computer Science spaces upon completion of all the required courses and if you achieve at least an A- in both CSC/MATA67 and MATA31.  Those grades do not guarantee admission.  They simply allow you to apply.

There is a very high demand for Computer Science programs.  If you are not in the CS admission category then the grades required to be admitted to one of these spaces will likely be much higher than the requirements for students in the CS admission category.  The actual grades needed will vary from year to year depending on the number of available spaces and the applicant pool.

Some of you are interested in taking a co-op program in Computer Science. That has additional admission requirements which are set by the co-op office.  We won't go into them here.

# Mathematics admission requirements

There are 100 spaces available in the Mathematics Major and 50 spaces available in the Mathematics Specialist.  In order to apply, you must have completed 4.0 credits, including all required A-level courses. Those courses are: CSCA08 or A20, MATA22, MATA31, MATA37 and either CSCA67 or MATA67 (really the same course, but with two labels).

## For students who are in the Mathematics admission category:

*What you need*:
MAJOR PROGRAM:
1. A grade point average of at least 2.0 across the following four courses:  CSC/MATA67, MATA22, MATA31, MATA37
2. A grade of at least B in one of CSC/MATA67, MATA22, MATA37

SPECIALIST PROGRAM:
1. A grade point average of at least 2.5 across the following four courses:  CSC/MATA67, MATA22, MATA31, MATA37
2. A grade of at least B in two of CSC/MATA67, MATA22, MATA37

We anticipate that most of the students in the Math admission category will meet at least the first set of admission requirements.

*What this will get you*: You will be admitted to the Mathematics Major program if you achieve all of the first set of requirements. You will be to admitted to your choice of any Mathematics Specialist program if you achieve all of the second set of requirements.

## For students who are in other admission categories:

We anticipate having several spaces available in the Mathematics Major and Specialist for students from other admission categories (CS, Stats and categories from other departments).  The number of spaces will vary from year to year, depending on the number of successful applicants from the Mathematics admission category.  Students will be selected for admission to these spaces based on their grades in the required courses as listed above. The actual grades needed will vary year to year depending on the number of available spaces and the applicant pool.

Some of you are interested in taking a co-op program in Mathematics. That has additional admission requirements which are set by the co-op office.  We won't go into them here.

# Statistics admission requirements

There are 100 spaces available in the Statistics Major. There are 75 spaces available in the Statistics Specialist: 35 in the Machine Learning and Data Science stream, and a total of 40 in the Statistical Science stream and the Quantitative Finance stream. In order to apply, you must have completed 4.0 credits, including all required A-level courses.

For the Major, those courses are: CSCA08 or A20, MATA22, MATA30 or A31, MATA36 or A37.

For the Specialist, those courses are: CSCA08, MATA22, MATA31, MATA37, either CSCA67 or MATA67 (really the same course, but with two labels) and CSCA48 (only required for the Machine Learning and Data Science stream),

## For students who are in the Statistics admission category:

*What you need*:
MAJOR PROGRAM
1. A grade point average of at least 2.3 across the following four courses: CSCA08/A20, MATA22, MATA30/A31, MATA36/A37

SPECIALIST PROGRAM
To **be eligible** to be considered for a specialist program:
1. A grade point average of at least 2.5 across the following five courses: CSCA08, CSC/MATA67, MATA22, MATA31, MATA37
2. For the Machine Learning and Data Science stream only: A grade of at least B in CSCA48

We anticipate that most of the students in the Statistics admission category will meet at least the first set of admission requirements.

*What this will get you*: You will be admitted to the Statistics Major program if you achieve all of the first set of requirements.

If you achieve the second set of requirements, you are eligible to be considered for a Statistics Specialist program. Those requirements do not guarantee admission. Students will be selected for admission based on their grades in the required courses as listed above. The actual grades needed will vary year to year depending on the applicant pool.

When admitting to the Specialist streams, priority will go to students from the Statistics admission category, and we anticipate that they will be awarded most of the available spaces.

## For students who are in other admission categories:

We anticipate having several spaces available in the Statistics Major and some spaces in the Statistics Specialist for students from other admission categories (CS, Math and categories from other departments). The number of spaces will vary from year to year, depending on the number of successful applicants from the Statistics admission category. Students will be selected for admission to these spaces based on their grades in the required courses as listed above.

There is a high demand for Statistics programs. If you are not in the Statistics admission category then the grades required to be admitted to one of these spaces will likely be higher than the requirements for students in the Statistics admission category. The actual grades needed will vary from year to year depending on the number of available spaces and the applicant pool.

Some of you are interested in taking a co-op program in Statistics. That has additional admission requirements which are set by the co-op office. We won't go into them here.