

Data Science in the Humanities

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In response to increasing graduate involvement in the Humanities Digital Workshop (HDW) and its associated faculty-led projects, we offer a Graduate Certificate in Data Science in the Humanities (DASH), which combines traditional humanities inquiry with computational methods and analysis. All graduate students in the humanities, regardless of their home PhD program, are welcome to pursue this certificate. A data-driven approach can complement and enrich any humanities field, and the certificate features appreciable cross-disciplinary engagement. Recent HDW projects have been supervised by faculty in fields as diverse as History; Music; German; Jewish, Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies; East Asian Languages and Cultures; American studies; Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology; Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; and English. Our goals are to enrich the analytic skills that students can bring to bear on research in their home disciplines and to enable them to contribute thoughtfully and resourcefully in other disciplines of the humanities.

The curriculum is designed to enable students to think critically about digital culture and media and to apply emerging computational techniques to the study of the humanities. It combines training in data management, statistics, text analysis, geospatial analysis, digital prosopography, data visualization, and information design with courses that reflect critically on digital culture, algorithmic mediation, and forms of new media. The curriculum will acquaint PhD students with new techniques and methodologies and foster an awareness of their theoretical implications.

This certificate program is distinguished by its emphasis on collaborative research and pedagogical development. Students will participate on a faculty project in the HDW; most students fulfill this requirement through the HDW summer workshop, an eight-week program that pairs faculty with a small group of graduate and undergraduate fellows. The collaborative environment, combined with weekly project meetings and skills workshops, makes these immersive summer programs an unusual counterpoint to traditional graduate education. The DASH certificate also requires the 3-unit course IPH 590 Digital Humanities in the Classroom, ensuring that pedagogical development accompanies more traditional courses.

Application

Students interested in pursuing the DASH graduate certificate should contact the program director (jfloewen@wustl.edu?subject=DASH%20Grad%20Certificate). PhD students in good standing should apply before the end of their second year. Master's students are not eligible. Applicants should write a letter detailing their interest in data science or digital humanities as well as any relevant background; their letter should be supplemented by a letter of support from the director of graduate studies of their home doctoral program. In order to receive the DASH graduate certificate, students must fulfill all of the PhD requirements of their home department. The certificate is granted to the student upon completion of the PhD.