

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

SUBJECT: New graduate degree program in the School of Information

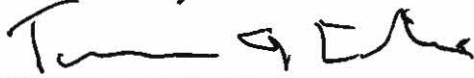
ACTION REQUESTED: Approval to offer a new online Master of Applied Data Science,
School of Information

The University of Michigan School of Information (UMSI) proposes a new online graduate degree, the "Master of Applied Data Science." The proposed degree, developed over the past year by UMSI faculty and staff and approved by the UMSI governing faculty in May 2018, will provide a needed and complementary addition to the School of Information's other degree programs. Data science skills are needed in many sectors of the economy and the demand for graduates with these skills is increasing. Peer institutions have just begun to enter into this market over the last several years. It is anticipated that the degree will mainly attract mid-career professionals. The design of the curriculum offers desirable flexibility to this population (shorter courses, amenable to part-time learners, and professionally-oriented).

The proposed program builds on the School of Information's historic commitment to instructional innovation, existing academic rigor, and holistic admissions policies. Faculty direction for the program will be provided through an academic program committee, led by a member of the governing faculty and consisting of instructional faculty in the School. This committee will ensure that the degree continues to meet its stated learning objectives, establish admissions criteria, and assist in setting program policies.

We request that the Regents approve the offering of the online graduate degree, Master of Applied Data Science. Pending approval, the first students will enter the program in September of 2019, following further approval from the Michigan Association of State Universities.

Recommended by:



Thomas A. Finholt, Dean
School of Information

Recommendation endorsed by:



Martin A. Philbert, Provost and
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

July 2018