Urban Informatics Webinar

Take the next step to become part of the Northeastern University network.
INTRODUCTIONS

Today’s presenters

Dan O’Brien
Assistant Professor

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Administrative Assistant for Academic Programs
What is Urban Informatics

The use of digital data to better understand, navigate, and serve the city.
Increased Commuting Flows within the Northeast Megaregion, 1990-2010
Urban Informatics: A growing industry

Public Sector

> Growing importance of Departments of Innovation & Technology

> Increased need for data analysts in specific agencies.
Urban Informatics: A growing industry

- Public sector
- Private sector

- Expanding sector of Smart Cities.
- Other industries that serve the city are becoming increasingly data-oriented.
- Consulting research departments are working with new and larger data sources

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Urban Informatics: A growing industry

- Public Sector
- Private Sector
- Non-profits

> Greater emphasis on data as a way to know the city they are supporting.

> Program selection and evaluation are evolving in the digital age.
Urban Informatics: A growing industry

- Public sector
- Private sector
- Non-profits
- Academia

> A rich area for scientific study.
The Masters in Urban Informatics at Northeastern University

> **Access**, **manage**, and **analyze** large, complex data sets.

> **Communicate** these insights through writing, presentations, and visualizations.

> **Apply** this work to the operations and concerns of public and private sector entities.

> **Understand** the city as a system of systems that can be elucidated by data and analysis.
The Masters in Urban Informatics at Northeastern University

A university in and of the city with a deep commitment to experiential learning.

- Learning with the city as classroom.
- An emphasis on practical skills that can be translated to professional opportunities.
MUI Curriculum

- Data analytic foundation
- Core courses
- Capstone / Research Practicum
- Portfolio
UI Core Curriculum

- Introductory Course: Big Data for Cities
- Urban Theory
- Geographic Information Systems

Each 3 credit hours

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Data Analytic Curriculum

• Introduction to Computational Statistics

• Collecting, Storing, and Retrieving Data

• Introduction to Data Mining / Machine Learning

• Information Design and Visual Analytics

Each 4 credit hours
UI Electives

- Advanced Spatial Analysis
- Dynamic Modeling for Environmental Investment and Policy Making
- More to be announced.

Each 3 credit hours
Capstone / Research Practicum

> A semester-long individual or group project that uses the skills of urban informatics to address an applied question in collaboration with a local partner.
Capstone / Research Practicum

A semester-long individual or group project that pursues an original research question.

> Can be done in conjunction with an internship or other job placement.

Resilient Cities Lab

The Social Impact Lab at Northeastern University

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NETWORKED FOR LIFE
Students assemble and submit a professional portfolio of at least three projects completed within courses.
Post Graduation: Job Scenarios

• Urban Data Scientist
  > Extract insights from urban data sets as a basis for policy decisions.
  > (Curt Savoie – City of Boston)

• Spatial Analyst and expert for Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
  > Analyze geographical data and create maps and visualizations (Andy Woodruff, Cartographer at Axis Maps http://andywoodruff.com/)

• Entrepreneur in Civic Technologies
  > Use public data sets for offering new services (Karin Brandt – CEO of coUrbanize http://courbanize.com/)
When to Apply

Spring
October 1: International Applicants
December 1: U.S. Applicants

Fall
May 1: International Applicants
August 1: U.S. Applicants

NOTE: Decisions are released on a rolling basis.
What Do You Need?

• Completed online application

• Current Resume

• GRE scores
  > Strongly encouraged

• Unofficial copies of all transcripts

• Letters of Recommendation
  > 3 for degree programs
  > 1 for certificate programs

• Personal statement

• $75 Application fee (waived for AmeriCorps, McNair Scholars and PPIA SJI alumni)

• International Students:
  > TOEFL (target score 100)
  > IELTS (target score 7.0)
  > Degree earned at US institution
SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID

Scholarships

- CSSH Dean’s Scholarship
- Double Husky Scholarship for NU Alumni
- AmeriCorps Scholarship
- PPIA SJI Scholarship Match
- Yellow Ribbon Program

Financial Aid

- Eligible students can apply for Federal Financial Aid. For more information, contact the Northeastern financial aid office.
- Students must file their FAFSA application by March 1st. New student awards are made after admittance to the program.
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Program Questions
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