



EASTERN UNIVERSITY DATA PULSE 2024 FALL 2

FROM THE ASSISTANT DEAN

At Eastern, we're always looking for ways to support your academic and personal journey. Balancing coursework with a demanding job, family responsibilities, and maintaining some semblance of a personal life can be difficult. I wanted to take the opportunity to highlight some additional resources we hope you'll take advantage of.

Course Preview and Syllabi: DS & DA Programs Page

Have you ever tried to plan your coursework but were limited by course descriptions? Or signed up for a course only to find you have technical issues in the first week? Within our [programs Brightspace Page](#), the module *Course Preview and Syllabi* contains a variety of resources to help address issues such as these. You will find **submodules for each course, which contain information about the software, textbook, course syllabus, and sample video lectures.** This way you can more fully understand what each course will require, or help you get prepared for an upcoming course. For instance, following Fall 2 we'll have a bit of a break until Spring 1. It would be a great time to look at the resources for your next course and get prepped.

NetTutor Services: Brightspace

If you're like many students and are looking for tutoring assistance, NetTutor is here for you. **NetTutor provides live tutoring and feedback, including support outside Eastern business hours.** We have had some students report it has been useful to them, so feel free to check it out. But remember, *all work submitted must be your own*, so both use it and expect it to serve as a tutoring service and nothing more. **And please let us know how you find it.** You'll see more information later in the *Pulse*.

Faith and Mental Health Resources

As I discussed in the prior *Pulse*, we've started several initiatives to help students in their faith journey. You'll find more detailed information later in the *Pulse*, and can also refer to the prior edition for more information about our **Prayer Community**. In addition to our School's initiatives, Eastern provides various services you will find below, such as **counseling and chaplain services.** These services provide a safe space for any student who might need support beyond academics. Please continue to let us know how we can best serve you in these ways.

As always, please know we are here for you through your educational journey. **We understand this experience is not solely academic; it is also personal, emotional, and spiritual.** Our hope is these resources will help you grow not only as data professionals but as well-rounded individuals capable of making a positive impact in the world.



**DR. GREG LONGO, ASSISTANT DEAN,
THE SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCES**

GRADUATE ASSISTANT SPOTLIGHT

How long have you been a GA?

I'm currently in my eighth term as a GA. After successfully completing both 520 and 550 in my first term, I joined the 550 team for two terms before transitioning to the 650 team, where I've been ever since.

What are some pros and cons of being a GA?

Being a GA is certainly a time commitment, but it's incredibly rewarding! With over a decade of teaching experience, I naturally gravitate towards supporting students. However, serving as a GA has provided a uniquely fulfilling experience. I have the opportunity to collaborate with driven and like-minded peers, all working toward a common goal. Assisting students has developed my skills and introduced me to different approaches. It has also allowed me to explore content areas I never had the time to fully grasp before. I truly believe that my time as a GA has enhanced my skills and made me a more effective educator, reminding me of the importance of being a lifelong learner.

What's your academic and career background?

I earned my undergraduate degree in Mathematics and Secondary Education from The College of New Jersey. Following that, I spent six years teaching high school mathematics in a low-income district, primarily focusing on various levels of Geometry. I then transitioned to a high school closer to home, where I'm currently in my fifth year. Initially, I taught Geometry and Algebra II, but now my courses include AP Statistics, AP Computer Science Principles, and an Engineering Design & Robotics course. My passion for data blossomed during my first year teaching AP Statistics, and that's when I discovered the MSDS program at Eastern. I'm incredibly grateful for this program and how it has ignited a new passion within me.

What is your favorite course in the program and why?

While I might be a bit biased, I have to say that 650 is my favorite! 😊 I also thoroughly enjoyed the 660 SQL course, as well as the machine learning in 670. I'm looking forward to my final course, 680, as well. I've discovered that I particularly enjoy the upper-level courses that incorporate projects and more advanced assignments. While foundational courses can certainly be beneficial, I find that engaging with projects is far more meaningful and impactful. These experiences not only deepen my understanding but also allow me to apply what I've learned in real-world contexts, making the learning process much more rewarding.

Any advice for students in the program?

Take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way! Challenge yourself with your course selection and fully commit to mastering the material. Approach your studies as more than just a means to achieve a good grade; view them as a chance for personal and professional growth. Embrace your projects as valuable experiences that will deepen your understanding and enhance your skills. Each project is a chance to apply what you've learned, think critically, and develop solutions to real-world problems. Remember, the journey of learning is just as important as the destination—so immerse yourself fully and enjoy every step of the process!



Ashley Zarcaro
DTSC 650 GA

Fun Facts!

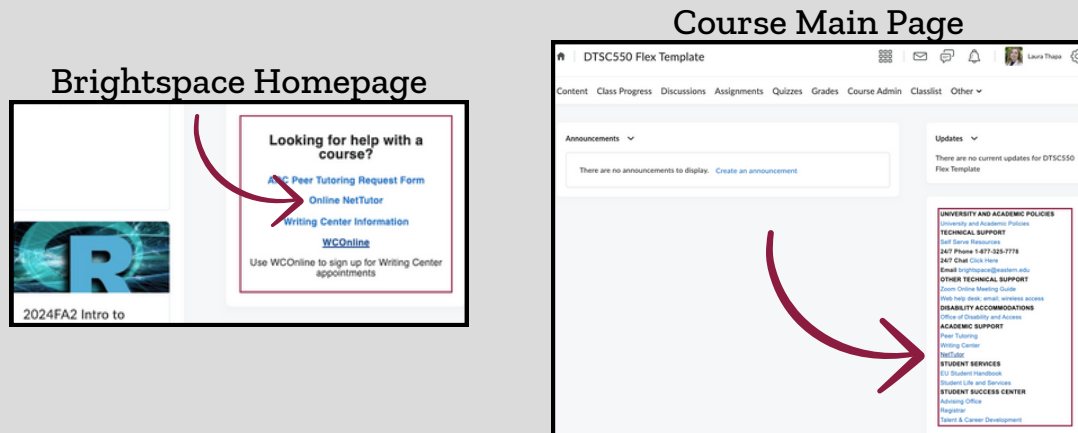
- My fiancé and I are excitedly planning our wedding for April, where our beloved pug and chihuahua mix, Maximus, will proudly serve as our Ring Security!
- We currently reside on New Jersey's Coast.
- Some of our favorite vacation destinations include Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, and the remote landscapes of Eastern Oregon where we visit family on their ranch.
- Each day, my time in the car is made enjoyable with the tunes of Elvis.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT: NET TUTOR

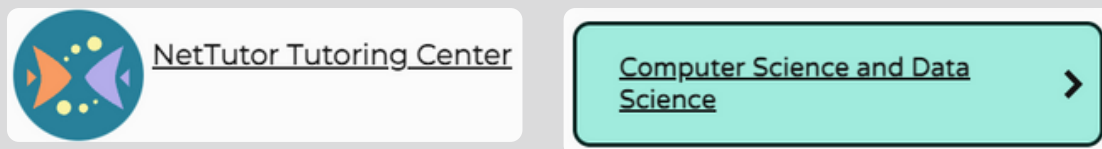
NetTutor is a virtual tutoring service offered free of charge to all students! [See how to use NetTutor here](#)

Accessing NetTutor

1. From the Brightspace homepage or the main page of a course, navigate to the "Academic Support" on the right side toolbar. Click **NetTutor**.

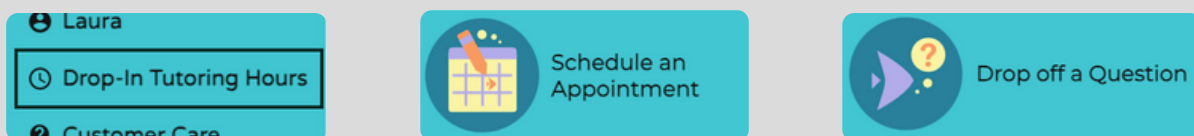


2. Choose "Tutoring Center" and "Computer Science and Data Science"



3. Explore your tutor options!

- Drop-in live tutoring: check the hours on the top right.
- Scheduled tutoring: pick a time that works for you!
- Drop off a Question: leave a question for a tutor to answer later.



What topics are covered that are relevant to our program?

- Algorithms & Data Structures
- Python, SQL, Excel
- ML and AI
- User Interface & User Experience
- Computer Science Skills

Have you tried NetTutor? We'd love to hear about your experience!

Please send us an email at datascience@eastern.edu

PRAYER COMMUNITY

We invite you to join our virtual prayer community! We will be sending prayer requests through email. If there is interest, we may hold occasional prayer meetings over Zoom.

COMMUNITY EMAIL SIGNUP

Please fill out the Google Form below to sign up to receive occasional prayer community emails.

[Prayer Community Signup Form](#)

PRAYER REQUESTS

Would you like prayer for something? You can submit your requests to the form below at any time. Requests will be shared anonymously.

[Submit your prayer request here](#)

CONGRATULATIONS!

Welcome baby boy!

Leyanis Argueta (DS/DA Operations Coordinator) will be out on maternity leave in FA2 with her new bundle of joy!



EXTENSION REQUESTS

Starting in Fall 2, you must **complete 75% of the course content** to be eligible for an incomplete. Please see your course syllabus Academic Policies for complete information.

What constitutes an extension request?

- Extreme, unforeseen circumstances (medical emergencies, natural disasters)

What is not accepted?

- Technical problems, workload issues

ADVISING

Term Dates

Withdraw without academic penalty:


- December 15th by 5:00 pm ET

FA2 ends: December 15th at 11:59 pm ET

- Grades posted within 1 - 2 weeks

Important Reminders

- The first day of SP1 is January 13th
- The last day to register for Spring 1 is Tuesday, January 21st

 Keep up with all the important dates and make the most of your student journey!

Subscribe to [Student: MSDS/DA Calendar](#)

[Guide to Not Getting Scammed](#): Tips from EU's CIO

NEW COURSE ASSISTANTS

Tyler Stark: DTSC 575

Haley Harleman: DTSC 600

James Gilbert: DTSC 670

Miranda Oliverius: DTSC 680

FAITH AND COUNSELING

Counseling and Crisis Services

Services through Uwill are available to all students and include 24/7/365 crisis support.

- [Click here for the Uwill website](#)
- [See the Uwill FAQ](#)
- **Uwill Crisis Line:** 833-646-1526 (outside the US, Canada and Caribbean call +1-984-268-2016)

EU Chapel Livestream:

- [Chapel Schedule](#)
- [Watch Live Chapel](#)
- [Recorded Chapel \(YouTube\)](#)

University Chaplain:

[Dr. Joseph Modica](#)

Contact Us:

General Questions: datascience@eastern.edu

Advising Questions: dsadvising@eastern.edu

Fees and Billing: student.accounts@eastern.edu

Find Us on Social Media:

