
Graduate Studies

Leadership in a Complex World

MASTER OF SCIENCE
IN DECISION ANALYSIS



MINERVA[®]
UNIVERSITY



Introduction

In our increasingly complex and interconnected world, the need for effective decision-making in any organization is more critical than ever before. Minerva University has developed a first-of-its-kind program designed specifically to prepare twenty-first-century global leaders to tackle complex challenges and make consequential decisions. The 21-month, part-time Master of Science in Decision Analysis (MDA) is designed to impart advanced leadership skills, with an emphasis on critical thinking, analysis, problem solving and evidence-based decision-making.

460%

amount by which the share of jobs requiring employees to make good decisions has risen since 1960

Source: Harvard University and NBER, "The Growing Importance of Decision-Making on the Job", 2021

3x

improvement in decision making that highly data-driven organizations report

Source: Harvard Business School, "The Advantages of Data-driven Decision Making", 2019

75%

of American companies struggle to recruit employees with critical thinking skills

Source: CERIDIAN, "The top five skills that companies need most for the future of work", 2019

Professional Context

Evidence-based decision-making is a critical component for success in any job.

Professionals looking to advance in any industry must be able to tackle complex challenges with systematic and structured approaches. Within the global workforce, varied issues demand the skills to deconstruct problems, interpret complex data, and devise effective solutions to drive meaningful improvements. To help organizations adapt to disruptions and search for innovative solutions, agile leaders need the tools to make consequential decisions—those affecting teams, organizations, entire industries, and society at large.

Program Overview

Learn to make better evidence-based decisions for your organization.

Designed to impart critical leadership skills, the Master of Science in Decision Analysis program emphasizes critical thinking, analysis, problem solving and practical decision-making. The MDA curriculum teaches learners how to identify the right problem, apply systems thinking and problem solving frameworks, design research that tests hypotheses, interpret complex data, identify rational interpretations, devise potential solutions, evaluate the implications of those choices, and more.

Curriculum includes eight semester-long courses that provide relevant analytical knowledge, problem solving frameworks and evidence-based decision making skills that are fundamental to strong leadership. The final thesis project enables students to apply their learning to a substantive topic of their choosing, including one deriving from their current employment if desired.

Accessible for Working Professionals



- 21-month, part-time program, accessible from anywhere in the world
- Every class is a small live video discussion-based seminar
- Active learning methodology ensures engagement and knowledge retention
- \$39,500 total tuition and available low-interest loans

Relevant Curriculum for a Variety of Fields



- Applied projects allowing for practice of skills across contexts
- Transferable skills around analytics, systems thinking, and effective interaction
- Practical and creative problem-solving frameworks and heuristics
- Applied masters thesis on topic of choice

The Minerva Approach



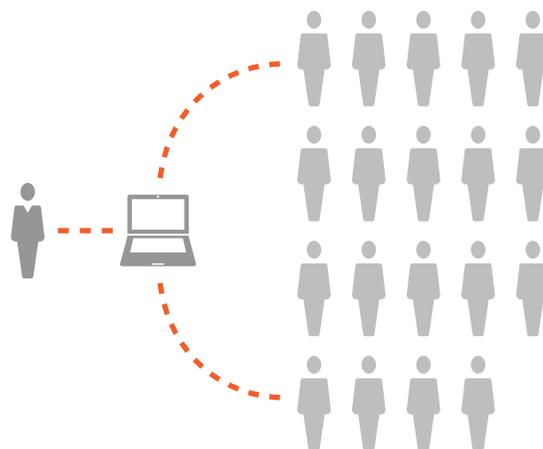
- Expert faculty instruction in Minerva's active learning environment environment Forum™
- Personalized feedback and progress tracking
- Top academic and external thesis advisors
- Diverse global student network and interdisciplinary engagement

Innovative Classes

Learn effectively from anywhere in the world.

All classes are live, online seminars, via Minerva's virtual learning environment, Forum™. Classes are accessible through a reliable, high-speed internet connection, so students can live and study where they choose, while continuing their professional or personal commitments.

Based on the science of learning, Forum™ is designed specifically to improve your educational experience, with class sessions that encourage active discussion with your professor and fewer than 20 students, individualized instruction, frequent feedback, and project-based assessment.



Fewer than 20 students participate in each discussion-based seminar on the Active Learning Forum™

“I chose Minerva because it’s interdisciplinary and has the practice and philosophy that can help me integrate all my ideas and experiences together. I love the idea of breaking down the boundaries between different disciplines because I feel like that’s the future. Minerva can help me understand how to learn and how to solve a problem instead of just teaching me the answer.”

Philip Chan
Master’s Class of 2022

Long-term Professional Services

Gain access and support beyond academic coursework.

Minerva University’s Coaching and Talent Development team provides individualized life coaching in 1:1 and group sessions, resume services, identification of relevant employment opportunities and networking, support for entrepreneurial ventures, and promotion of significant student/alumni accomplishments. The Coaching and Talent Development group provides long-term resources and support to facilitate individual growth and bolster student and alumni success.

Applications Open

Aspiring students are encouraged to apply and take a series of challenges.

The admissions process is straightforward and the first two parts take approximately one hour in total to complete. Applicants who qualify for the final round will be invited for an online interview to ensure understanding of, and readiness for, the program.

01

Application

This short online form asks for basic information, including your academic history and employment status, if applicable. An official academic transcript and CV are also required.

02

Challenges

The most distinctive aspect of the process, two engaging challenges offer an opportunity to showcase how you think across various dimensions.

03

Interview*

Following review of the submitted materials and evaluation of performance on the challenges, select candidates will be invited for an online interview.

*by invitation only

To apply, visit: www.minerva.edu/masters/apply



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