

Jumpstart Testimonials from the 2022 Incoming Class

TINE NDHLOVU (MPP '24)

I participated in jumpstart, because I had not completed a core math class since I was in high school, and I believed that I did not have the concrete foundational knowledge to get through the core. By participating in the Jumpstart program, I was able to gain additional problem-solving skills and it helped me develop flexible thinking skills which deemed useful for the core curriculum. The program was great, mainly in the way in which the program was structured. We started with the basic concepts and bridged on from those concepts daily. It was taught in a slower pace, so I did not feel overwhelmed too quickly. We also had access to DiagKNOWstics, that helped to practice and build the muscle memory to remember these concepts. The value in this program academically is that I was provided with the foundational knowledge to understand the core lecture material, as well as solve our problem sets. Socially it also helped me make friends earlier into the program. The friends I made on the first day of jumpstart, are still the same friends I have months into the program, making my graduate experience more memorable.



OSCAR BECERRA HERNANDEZ (MPP '24)

I decided to participate in Harris's Jumpstart Program because I wanted to gain confidence in my quantitative skills before beginning Harris's rigorous, first-year core. Coming from an academic background that didn't include many quantitative classes, I wanted to feel prepared for my first year of graduate school. And the Jumpstart program did exactly that. In just a few weeks, I learned key concepts that facilitated my academic success in classes such as Microeconomics and Analytical Politics. I encourage any incoming student, regardless of their math capabilities, to participate for two main reasons: one, the Jumpstart Program sets students up for success by allowing them to ease into the graduate student experience; and two, it facilitated friendships with other students that continued well after the program. It's a valuable experience with a long-lasting impact, I can assure you.



JUGAD MATTU (MPP '24)

I decided to participate in Jumpstart because I knew I needed a refresher of my base math skills before Math and Coding Camp. Because I had about 2 years between undergrad and grad school, I felt it would only benefit me. And I was right. The lecturer was great, walked us through each topic to make sure it was collectively understood, and I felt way more prepared going into Math and Coding camp! I also met my best friends through Jumpstart! I was able to connect with other incoming Harris students way earlier and we bonded very quickly. I would recommend Jumpstart over and over again, it was great!



ALEXANDER BATTAGLIA (MPP '24)

Jumpstart was the clear foundation for my success at Harris. The Core of the MPP program is challenging in so many ways, but Jumpstart ensured that I would start the quarter with two things: a clear understanding of the mathematics necessary for future problem sets, and friendships that proved essential in the fall. Our work in the core is fast paced, group based, and difficult to complete on an island. By participating in those crucial days of instruction and activities before the start of class, I found myself surrounded by friendships and partners who carried me through the experience. I would have anyone coming to Harris seriously consider participating in this opportunity-- I continue to be thankful for it.

**MAGGIE LYMAN (MPP '24)**

Having not looked at math of any kind in about 8 years before starting grad school, Jumpstart helped me refresh my algebra skills to prepare for math camp. There were a lot of foundational skills I had forgotten over the years and the slow pace of Jumpstart helped these skills come back to me (like riding a bike!). I found Math and Coding Camp and aspects of the core (especially Microeconomics) much easier because I attended Jumpstart.

**NED STIMPSON (MPP '24)**

I decided to participate in Jumpstart because my undergraduate career primarily focused on qualitative analysis, as I was a sociology major. Jumpstart was absolutely critical to me in terms of honing some of my math skills prior to Math and Coding Camp, and setting me up with an adequate skillset to tackle Math and Coding Camp and eventually the core. Additionally, it was an amazing experience to get on campus early and make friends. I would absolutely recommend jumpstart to anyone considering it, it was an important first step to take at Harris, and a positive one at that.

Jumpstart Testimonials from the 2021 Incoming Class

SARA SOTO (MPP '23)

For someone with limited quantitative experience in the workplace, Jumpstart felt like a fresh breath of air when thinking about facing Harris' quantitative curriculum. The program helped me refresh concepts I knew but had not practiced in years. It not only gave me confidence in my math abilities but it made the transition to Math and Coding Camp smooth. During Math and Coding Camp, I was glad I attended Jumpstart and realized that without the foundations of the program, my experience would not have been as enjoyable. Also, once the quarter starts things get hectic and time flies. Thus having that extra time to settle in, enjoy the city, and meet your future classmates in a more relaxed setting was fantastic!



CLARE GRZEGORZEWSKI (MPP '23)

Math has never been my strong suit, so I felt as though participating in Jumpstart would give me the necessary quantitative foundation to be successful in the Harris Core. Jumpstart gave me a well-rounded refresher on both calculus and algebraic principles. These were certainly revisited in the Core, and having these concepts fresh in my mind helped me to navigate the Core curriculum more easily. Moreover, it was nice to have a sort of "low stakes" learning environment over the summer to ease into the Fall quarter. I would highly recommend participating in Jumpstart if you aren't super confident in your math skills or just want a comfortable environment to learn, ask questions, and acclimate to life at Harris prior to the Fall quarter.



BEN STOCK (MPP '23)

I went into Harris with a very non-quantitative background, and was nervous to be working with math once I started my degree. This, in addition to the fact that I was moving to a new city, meant that I was looking for a program that could give me an expansive, comforting introduction into a new academic and social space. Jumpstart did all of that and more. From the first time I walked into Keller until the last day of the two weeks, Jumpstart made me feel comfortable to ask for whatever I needed and made me feel like I was supported every step of the way. The staff's inclusive way of teaching allowed me to build up my math skills slowly over the course of a couple weeks with a small cohort of other students. I was able to use the confidence I had gained to learn calculus for the first time ever and use it successfully in economics, statistics, and game theory. I was also thankful that I got to know many classmates well ahead of Math and Coding Camp and the quarter, so that I had a support system in place even before classes got started. This turned out to be vital once Core classes got underway. I truly cannot recommend Jumpstart enough as a way for new Harris students to begin their experience!



Jumpstart Testimonials from the 2020 Incoming Class

NEETHI NAYAK (MPP/MBA '23)

Jumpstart was such a good way for me to dip my toes into grad school before it all came in full force. Academically, it helped me reset and get into the headspace of being back in the classroom and brushing up on skills I hadn't touched in a long time. Socially, my Jumpstart TA session group is still close knit! My friend's circle largely began at Jumpstart and we're active about keeping in touch and hanging out. It was such a good way to get started with the Harris community and I loved the supportive environment it fostered. I would strongly recommend attending!



RITA JEFFERSON (MPP '22)

I decided to participate in Jumpstart because I had not taken a math class in 7 years, and I definitely felt like I wanted a refresher. I was so relieved the first few days as we started slowly. Virtual education was something to get used to, and having Jumpstart as an on-ramp into both Math & Coding Camp and fall quarter was immensely helpful. I made some wonderful friends in Jumpstart, and it was so useful to have a small group setting to meet people in. I would absolutely recommend anyone who is not confident in their math ability or just wants a good refresher to participate.



NATALIA TOSI (MPP '22)

Jumpstart was very important for my transitioning process back to school. After years without doing basic math operations, it helped me recover those concepts and tools in a very program-focused way, to prepare us for the core courses. It was also the time when we first started interacting with peers and classmates, helping us build a collaborative network. From my perspective, the online format did not affect the learning process and it was very well adjusted to best suit student's needs. I would recommend it to anyone who feels like recovering math concepts would be a good idea and also for those who have been out of school for some time.

