

## 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!



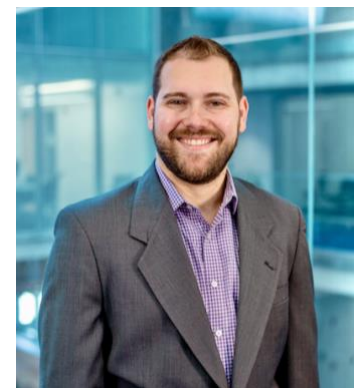
### **CLARE GRZEGORZEWSKI (MPP '23)**

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!



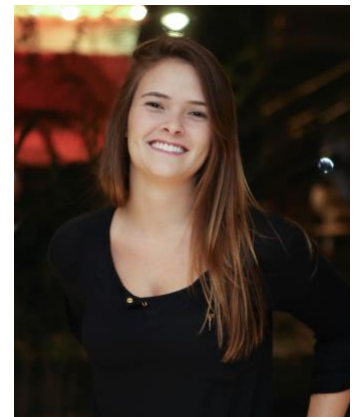
### **RITA JEFFERSON (MPP '22)**

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.



## Jumpstart Testimonials from the 2019 Incoming Class

### **DEVON BRAUNSTEIN (MPP '21)**

Prior to coming to Harris, math scared me. Any time I had to confront a fraction or quickly pull out trends from numerical findings without the help of Excel, I would feel a pit of nerves in my stomach. I was excited to attend Jumpstart because I was told it would be a foundational refresher of algebra, fractions, graphing, etc., plus a glimpse into calculus, which I hadn't thought about since high school. I ended up attending, and it exceeded my expectations. In a small group of 40-50 students, we had the chance to learn at a reasonable pace, ask questions without judgement, and work on homework assignments with peers and TAs. It was fun to roam Keller and local coffee shops with minimal other people on campus. We had picnic lunches outside and could leisurely complete our homework assignments while exploring Hyde Park in the summer. Leaving Jumpstart and entering Math Camp, I felt confident about all of the concepts that had once given me pause. Not to mention, I already had a lay of the land for Keller and campus, and had formed a small group of friends with whom I could work on assignments and review concepts before heading to happy hour. I would highly recommend attending Jumpstart - it eases you into the intensity of Harris courses while giving you a chance to make friends and get a sense for grad school life.



### **JANIEL SANTOS (MPP '21)**

Had I not attended Jumpstart, I don't think that I would be as well adjusted to life at Harris and Chicago as I am now. I am an introvert at heart, and have struggled to make meaningful connections under a larger crowd. Having the smaller, intimate space at Jumpstart made all the difference, and a lot of the friendships I made then, I still hold now. I think the program did a great job at fostering relationships between peers and making room for fun outside of our regular algebra courses. I had the chance to learn my environment without the pressure of a large crowd around me and get a sense of the resources available to me. As an out of state student, this helped me feel a much more comfortable and eager to take on the term. Academically, even though I still struggled with algebra, it was a good way to dust off some of the cobwebs in my brain. I hadn't taken a math course since my freshman year of college, so practicing these skills again in a low-pressure setting helped me exercise those skills.



### **DYLAN JACOVO (MPP '21)**

As someone who came to Harris pretty quickly after my undergraduate studies, and absent a strong math background, I can easily say Jumpstart played a critical part in strengthening my quantitative skills and preparing me for Math Camp as well as for the Core. Jumpstart also gave me an extended timeframe to develop connections with classmates that remain some of my closest friends at Harris. Without Jumpstart, Math Camp would have been much more challenging for me, and I am extremely grateful for the experience I had last August. I believe any Harris Candidate that is looking for a math refresher and a chance to engage with other Harris students and staff would be tremendously rewarded by the Jumpstart experience.



### **AARON SMOOT (MPP '21)**

Coming into Harris, all I heard about was how challenging the Core was. I had never taken a statistics class or coded before in my life, so I was pretty apprehensive about the work load and just not knowing enough. The first day of Jumpstart, our math teacher went over the beginnings of algebra, and day by day we grew on top of these skills until I felt pretty confident. The nice thing about Harris is that the community wants you to succeed. I've learned just as much from my professors and TA's as I have from other students here. No one is expecting anyone to be a master, but Jumpstart gives you the tools to ask for help to figure something out when you need it. The most important thing to me about Jumpstart was the friendships I made. My closest friends at Harris to this day are the people I met at Jumpstart. You are together for two weeks, and you're not in classes just yet, so take some time to relax, see the city, do things you enjoy, and chill with the people you will spend the next two years with. Jumpstart gave me an advantage by making me feel confident and prepared for grad school. I hope it does the same for you.



### **FAITH POWELL (MPP '21)**

Jumpstart was the best way to begin my Harris experience. As someone who had not taken a math course since high school, I really benefitted from a refresher course in a smaller (~40 person) class setting. I also met many of my closest Harris pals through Jumpstart. Some of my favorite memories from last fall included bonfires and swimming at Promontory Point, and post-class drinks at The Pub, all with the coolest Jumpstart folks.



### **MICHAEL GORMAN (MPP '21)**

I graduated from college nine years before I arrived at Harris; I knew I would need as many resources as possible to get back into an academic mindset. Jumpstart gave me the opportunity to brush up on my high school algebra before taking my first-ever dive into calculus during Math Camp. At Jumpstart, I met a bunch of people I'm still friends with today! It was a great opportunity to get acquainted with Harris without all the stress.



### **ALEXIS SMYSER (MPP '21)**

I knew it would be a good idea for me to participate in Jumpstart because it had been years since I had taken any math classes, and I knew that I'd need a refresher. I feel that I got a lot out of Jumpstart because we had a great instructor, and it gave me ample time to refamiliarize myself with the material. I also got a lot of value out of the program socially. The friends I made in Jumpstart are now my closest friends at Harris and it's because of the time we spent together and bonds we formed during Jumpstart.



### **MADDIE SOSKIN (MPP '21)**

Jumpstart has been an essential part of my time at Harris. From the quantitative skills learned, to the friends I met, I know that my time at Harris would be fundamentally different without Jumpstart. Having not taken a quantitative course in over 8 years, I was grateful for the refresher of knowledge we needed to succeed in the Core. Perhaps most importantly, Jumpstart gives you an opportunity to get to know your peers and your (perhaps new) city before diving in to Math Camp.

