

Jumpstart Testimonials from the 2024 Incoming Class

SOFIA LINARES (MPP '26)

Jumpstart was essential for me! It helped me refresh key math concepts and arrive at Math Camp feeling fully prepared. Those two additional weeks were very valuable, as they gave me time to adapt and feel more confident before classes officially began. I highly recommend it!

ALONSO GUTIERREZ OLIVARES (MPP '26)

I attended Jumpstart because I wasn't confident about my math skills, as I didn't have an economics or quantitative background at all. I not only had a fantastic instructor and TAs who helped me learn all the necessary math concepts surprisingly quickly, but I also had the chance to meet some students—now very close friends—and explore Hyde Park, settling in smoothly. I highly recommend it!



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LAVONTE BROOKS (MPP '25)

I decided to participate in Jumpstart because I had been out of school for about 8 years and did not feel comfortable in my math abilities ahead of taking the mandatory math exam. Jumpstart provided me with early access to math concepts, instructors, and fellow Harris students that also decided to participate in Jumpstart. Going through the math sessions boosted my confidence and some of my closest friends at Harris also started in Jumpstart with me. Jumpstart was extremely valuable to me, and I encourage anyone thinking about Jumpstart to actually do it.

ANDREW DIPPEL (MPP '25)

I decided to participate in Jumpstart because I was many years removed from my undergraduate studies and needed to relearn mathematical concepts I forgot. The program was a great introduction to life at Harris, and, besides the academic benefits, it was greatly socially beneficial to me as well. Many of the Harristas I am closest with I met during Jumpstart.



Jumpstart Testimonials from the 2022 Incoming Class

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.



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!



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.



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.

