

Statistics

Undergraduate Study

For the undergraduate curriculum in liberal arts and sciences, major in statistics, leading to the degree bachelor of science, see Liberal Arts and Sciences, Curriculum.

The curriculum in liberal arts and sciences with a major in statistics is designed to prepare students for (1) entry level statistics positions requiring the B.S. degree in statistics in business, industry or commerce, nonprofit institutions, and in state or federal government; (2) graduate study in statistics. Entry-level positions include the following types of work: statistical design, analysis and interpretation of experiments and surveys; data processing and analysis using modern computation facilities and statistical computing systems; application of statistical principles and methods in commercial areas such as finance, insurance, industrial research, marketing, manufacturing, and quality control. Nonprofit organizations such as large health study institutions have entry-level positions for B.S. graduates in statistics. Also, there are opportunities for work in statistics that require a major in a subject-matter field and a minor in statistics.

Students completing the undergraduate degree in statistics should have a broad understanding of the discipline of statistics. They should have a clear comprehension of the theoretical basis of statistical reasoning and should be proficient in the use of modern statistical methods and computing. Such graduates should have an ability to apply and convey statistical concepts and knowledge in oral and written form. They should be aware of ethical issues associated with polling and surveys and in the summarizing the outcomes of statistical studies.

Undergraduate majors in this department usually include in their programs:

STAT 201	Introduction to Statistical Concepts and Methods	4
One of the following options		
Option I		
MATH 165	Calculus I	
MATH 166	Calculus II	
MATH 265	Calculus III	
Option II		
MATH 165	Calculus I	
MATH 166H	Calculus II, Honors	
MATH 265H	Calculus III, Honors	
MATH 207 or MATH 317	Matrices and Linear Algebra Theory of Linear Algebra	3-4
COM S 207	Fundamentals of Computer Programming	3
STAT 301	Intermediate Statistical Concepts and Methods	4
STAT 341	Introduction to the Theory of Probability and Statistics I	3
STAT 342	Introduction to the Theory of Probability and Statistics II	3
STAT 402	Statistical Design and the Analysis of Experiments	3
STAT 421	Survey Sampling Techniques	3
STAT 479	Computer Processing of Statistical Data	3
STAT 480	Statistical Computing Applications	3

These courses plus at least six additional credits in statistics at the 400 level or above constitute the major. With the permission of the department, I E 361 Statistical Quality Assurance/STAT 361 Statistical Quality Assurance may be substituted for three credits of 400 level courses. It is advisable to have a minor in a field of application. See also: A 4-year plan of study grid showing course template by semester .

English and Speech proficiency requirement: The department requires a grade of C– or better in each of ENGL 150 Critical Thinking and Communication and ENGL 250 Written, Oral, Visual, and Electronic Composition (or ENGL 250H Written, Oral, Visual, and Electronic Composition: Honors), and completion of one of ENGL 302 Business Communication or ENGL 314 Technical Communication with a grade of C- or better. The department requires a passing grade in COMST 102 Introduction to Interpersonal Communication or SP CM 212 Fundamentals of Public Speaking .

Students intending to do graduate work in statistics normally will take additional courses in mathematics.

Minor

The department offers a minor in statistics which may be earned by completing an introductory course in statistics plus additional courses from 301, 326, 341,

342, 361, and 400 level or above to yield a total of at least 15 credits in statistics courses.

Graduate Study

The department offers graduate programs leading to both Master of Science (M.S.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees with a major in statistics. Graduate work leading to a minor in statistics is available for students majoring in other programs, at both the M.S. and Ph.D. levels. The Ph.D. degree is also offered as a co-major with other graduate programs. The department participates in inter-disciplinary graduate programs in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Genetics, Human Computer Interaction, Nutritional Sciences, and Wind Energy Science, Engineering, and Policy.

Graduates of the M.S. program have an understanding of basic statistical theory and methods. Elective courses in the M.S. program provide an opportunity for students to emphasize particular areas of statistical methods or application in their program. Students complete a minimum of 34 semester credits, including work on a capstone project resulting in a written creative component under the direction of an individual major professor and presented in a final oral examination.

Graduates of the Ph.D. program in statistics have studied advanced theory and methods, and have demonstrated the ability to conduct independent research resulting in an original contribution to the discipline. Candidates for the Ph.D. degree in statistics complete a minimum of 72 semester credits, including at least 18 credits given for research activity, pass an oral preliminary examination, and submit a written dissertation containing original research that is defended in a final oral examination. Dissertation research is typically conducted in close collaboration with a major professor and usually results in publishable material. The department does not offer specific program tracks or areas of emphasis, but the diversity of elective courses and research areas of faculty allow students to tailor their individual programs to reflect areas of particular interest.

Graduates of co-major Ph.D. programs in statistics and an applied scientific discipline have mastered basic statistical theory and have studied advanced methodology. Students complete a minimum of 72 semester credits for courses in statistics and the chosen scientific discipline. Students conduct research that is a combination of statistical methodology and the scientific discipline. Co-major professors work with the student to prepare for an oral preliminary examination and conduct research leading to a single dissertation project that produces an original contribution to at least one of the two disciplines that is defended in a final oral examination.

Graduates of co-major Ph.D. programs in statistics and an area of theoretical mathematics have mastered basic statistical methods and have studied advanced statistical theory. Students complete a minimum of 72 semester credits. Co-major professors assist the student in preparing a dissertation that represents original research that makes a contribution at the interface of statistical theory and a sub-discipline of mathematics. The dissertation is defended in a final oral examination.