Statistics

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Information is needed to solve the many problems of today’s world. How much information? What kind? After it is obtained, what must be done with it? Statisticians are trained to help answer these questions. Early admission into the Statistics Department will allow students to plan their programs so that the math and statistics prerequisites can be taken in the most efficient sequence.

The department offers BA, BS, MA and PhD degrees with a major in Statistics. A minor is also available.

Faculty

Associate Professor S. Chakraborty**, S. Guha**, A. Micheas**, L. A. Thoms**
Assistant Professor H. Cao*, T. Ji*, E. Schliep*, X. Zhang*
Assistant Teaching Professor S. Lee*, L. D. Ries*
Assistant Teaching Professor J. Shows*, I. Zaniletti*

- Graduate Faculty Member - membership is required to teach graduate-level courses, chair master's thesis committees, and serve on doctoral examination and dissertation committees.
- Doctoral Faculty Member - membership is required to chair doctoral examination or dissertation committees. Graduate faculty membership is a prerequisite for Doctoral faculty membership.

Undergraduate

- BA in Statistics (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/statistics/ba-statistics)
- BS in Statistics (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/statistics-bs-statistics)

Credit for Beginning Courses

(Applies to all students and all majors)

- A student may not receive credit toward an undergraduate degree for more than one of STAT 1200, STAT 1300 and STAT 1400.
- A student may not receive credit toward an undergraduate degree for more than one of STAT 2500 and STAT 2530.
- Subject to the above restrictions, a student may receive a maximum of 4 credits toward an undergraduate degree for any combination of STAT 1200, STAT 1300, STAT 1400, STAT 2200, STAT 2500 and STAT 2530.
- A student may not receive credit toward an undergraduate degree for any statistics course numbered 2999 or below if a statistics course numbered 4000 or above was successfully completed prior to or concurrent with the course in question. Exceptions may be approved at the discretion of the department.

Department Degree Requirements - Statistics

The Department of Statistics approves majors in statistics only for students who have met the following criteria:

- Completion of at least one statistics course at the 3000-level or above (or equivalent)
- Cumulative GPA of at least 2.50 overall
- Have earned a grade of C or higher in each statistics course completed

Students are encouraged to supplement their work in statistics with courses from areas such as economics, biology, accounting, finance, marketing, management, psychology, sociology, engineering, agriculture and atmospheric science. In addition, students must complete all degree, college and university graduation requirements (http://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegreerequirements/universityrequirements), including university general education (http://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegreerequirements/generaleducationrequirements).

Options

Students may pursue either a BA or a BS degree. For both degrees, students may pursue either a traditional track or an applied track. Students who are interested in graduate study in statistics are strongly encouraged to follow the traditional track.

Departmental Honors

To be admitted to the undergraduate honors program in the Department of Statistics, a student must have completed at least 12 of the 21 credits of statistics courses required for the major, have a grade-point average of at least 3.25 in all completed statistics courses, and identify a faculty member from the department who agrees to supervise the student’s honors research project.

In order to receive the departmental honors designation, students who have been accepted into the program must graduate with a grade-point average of at least 3.25 in statistics courses, prepare a senior thesis or honors research project.

Students who have met the following criteria:

- Have earned a grade of C or higher in each statistics course completed
- Completion of at least one statistics course at the 3000-level or above (or equivalent)
- Cumulative GPA of at least 2.50 overall
- Have earned a grade of C or higher in each statistics course completed

Students are encouraged to supplement their work in statistics with courses from areas such as economics, biology, accounting, finance, marketing, management, psychology, sociology, engineering, agriculture and atmospheric science. In addition, students must complete all degree, college and university graduation requirements (http://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegreerequirements/universityrequirements), including university general education (http://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegreerequirements/generaleducationrequirements).

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In order to receive the departmental honors designation, students who have been accepted into the program must graduate with a grade-point average of at least 3.25 in statistics courses, prepare a senior thesis based on their honors project, and present the results of the thesis in a departmental colloquium or other public forum approved by their mentor. They also must earn a grade of “B” or better in 3 credits of STAT 4999 .

Graduate

  - with emphasis in Biostatistics (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/statistics/ma-statistics-emphasis-biostatistics)
  - with emphasis in Data Analytics (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/statistics/ma-statistics-data-analytics)
- PhD in Statistics (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/statistics/phd-statistics)
- Graduate Minor in Statistics (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/statistics/graduate-minor-statistics)
About Statistics

The statistics department faculty is known for both cutting edge methodological and collaborative research and for outstanding teaching. Faculty members are currently investigating statistical problems in the fields of ecology, genetics, economics, meteorology, wildlife management, epidemiology, AIDS research, geophysics, and climatology. The program’s faculty members have ongoing collaborative programs across disciplines such as biostatistics, bioinformatics, economics, atmospheric science, psychology and with the Missouri Department of Conservation.

The graduate program provides opportunities for graduate study and thesis direction in various areas of probability and statistics, both theoretical and applied. A variety of consulting and collaborative opportunities allow both faculty and graduate students to conduct cooperative and interdisciplinary research. Regular statistics colloquia provide opportunities for faculty and outside speakers to present the results of their research. Faculty and graduate students also participate in weekly seminar series in Bayesian statistics, bioinformatics, and biostatistics.

Dual Master’s Degree in Economics and Statistics

The department offers a cooperative MA degree with the Economics Department. Students may obtain MA degrees in economics and statistics with 48 hours of course work numbered 7000 or higher from the University of Missouri instead of the 52 or more required for separate degrees. (These 48 hours may not include any of the following: ECONOM 7351, ECONOM 7353, or STAT 7510, STAT 7530, STAT 7710.) Eighteen or more hours are required from the Department of Economics. At least 15 hours must be numbered 8000 or higher with no more than four hours of 8090. Students must take the core economics courses ECONOM 8451 and ECONOM 8453 and research workshop ECONOM 8413 (2 credit hours). Eighteen or more hours are required from the Department of Statistics. At least 15 hours must be numbered 8000 or higher with no more than three hours of 8090. STAT 7750 and STAT 7760 and MATH 7140 are required if equivalent courses were not taken as an undergraduate.

All candidates must submit a thesis or written project demonstrating an independent effort towards producing original work satisfactory for each degree. The candidate may complete separate theses/projects for both economics and statistics or a single joint thesis/project satisfying both requirements.

Career Opportunities

Statisticians are in demand in education, medicine, government, business and industry as well as in the biological, social and physical sciences.

Facilities & Resources

The Department of Statistics maintains a state-of-the-art computer network with Linux workstations and servers for research and personal productivity software on PCs. Students have access to the network through PCs in student offices and through the statistics department computer laboratory. An extensive library of software including R, SAS, and common programming languages is maintained. Students also have access to the campus computing network. The statistics department is located in newly renovated space in Middlebush, with easy access to the main library’s outstanding collection of books and journals in statistics.

Financial Aid from the Program

Fellowships and teaching and research assistantships are available to qualified graduate students. Some programs require an extra form or statement from those who wish to be considered for internal assistantships, fellowships or other funding packages. Check the program website or ask the program contact for details.