

STATISTICS: STATISTICS, PHD

This is a named option within the Statistics PhD. (<https://stat.wisc.edu/graduate-admissions/>) Find information about the traditional Statistics PhD program requirements and policies here.

ADMISSIONS

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Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program’s admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program’s website.

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. **Applicants must meet the minimum requirements (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/>) of the Graduate School as well as the program(s).** Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/>).

Requirements	Detail
Fall Deadline	December 1
Spring Deadline	The program does not admit in the spring.
Summer Deadline	The program does not admit in the summer.
GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)	Not Required.
English Proficiency Test	Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Requirements for Admission policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241/).
Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)	n/a
Letters of Recommendation Required	3

Applicants holding a bachelor’s degree with a natural science, social science, or engineering major and strong mathematical background are encouraged to apply for admission to the graduate program in statistics. Applicants are advised to undertake graduate work in statistics only if their undergraduate grades in mathematics were uniformly high.

FUNDING

FUNDING GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

[The Bursar’s Office provides information about tuition and fees associated with being a graduate student. Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information is available from the Graduate School.](#)

Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum degree requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#requirementstext>) and policies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiestext>), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

NAMED OPTION REQUIREMENTS MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face	Evening/ Weekend	Online	Hybrid	Accelerated
Yes	No	No	No	No

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students typically take enough credits aimed at completing the program in a year or two.

Evening/Weekend: Courses meet on the UW–Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

Face-to-Face: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW–Madison Campus.

Hybrid: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

Online: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirement Detail	
Minimum Credit Requirement	51 credits
Minimum Residence Credit Requirement	32 credits
Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement	26 credits must be graduate-level coursework. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/).
Overall Graduate GPA Requirement	3.00 GPA required. Refer to the Graduate School: Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203/).
Other Grade Requirements	A grade of B or better must be received in any course used to fulfill the required and elective course requirements.

Assessments and Examinations	Students must pass the PhD qualifying examination, an oral preliminary examination on a topic selected with the approval of the student's advisor, and a dissertation defense.
Language Requirements	No language requirements.
Graduate School Breadth Requirement	<p>Statistics doctoral students are not required to complete a minor or graduate/professional certificate by the Graduate School. The program does require students to meet the breadth requirement (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1200) for a minimum of 9 credits in one of three ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete an Option A (external) minor • Complete an Option B (distributed) minor consisting of at least 3 credits outside the Department of Statistics • Complete a Graduate/Professional Certificate <p>Courses or credits applied towards the breadth requirement cannot also be applied to core, methods, or elective categories below.</p> <p>See the program website (https://stat.wisc.edu/graduate-studies/phd-program) for more details.</p>

REQUIRED COURSES

Code	Title	Credits
Core		
Students must complete the following courses.		
STAT/MATH 709	Mathematical Statistics I	4
STAT/MATH 710	Mathematical Statistics II	4
STAT 771	Computational Statistics	4
STAT 849	Advanced Statistical Methods	4
STAT 998	Statistical Consulting	3
Methods		
	Students must complete 3 credits of methods. Refer to the "Methods Courses" table for courses that satisfy this requirement.	3
Statistics Electives		
	Students must complete 9 credits of statistics electives. Refer to the "Statistics Electives Courses" table for courses that satisfy this requirement. Note: Students cannot apply the same course towards both the methods requirement and statistics electives requirement.	9
Breadth		
	Students must complete 11 credits of additional coursework to meet the minimum credit requirement. Typically, this is earned through a combination of directed research (course listed below) and other elective courses selected in consultation with advisor.	9
	STAT 990	Research
Total Credits		51

Methods Courses

Code	Title	Credits
STAT/B M I 620	Statistics in Human Genetics	3
STAT/B M I 641	Statistical Methods for Clinical Trials	3
STAT/B M I 642	Statistical Methods for Epidemiology	3
STAT/B M I 643	Clinical Trial Design, Implementation, and Analysis	3
STAT 701	Applied Time Series Analysis, Forecasting and Control I	3
STAT/B M I 727	Theory and Methods of Longitudinal Data Analysis	3
STAT/B M I 741	Survival Analysis Theory and Methods	3
STAT 761	Decision Trees for Multivariate Analysis	3
STAT/B M I 768	Statistical Methods for Medical Image Analysis	3
STAT/ECON/GEN BUS 775	Bayesian Statistics	3
STAT 801	Advanced Financial Statistics	3
STAT/MATH 803	Experimental Design I	3
STAT 809	Non Parametric Statistics	3
STAT/B M I 828	Semiparametric Methods in Data Science	3
STAT 841	Nonparametric Statistics and Machine Learning Methods	3
STAT/B M I 877	Statistical Methods for Molecular Biology	3

Statistics Electives Courses

Code	Title	Credits
STAT/B M I 620	Statistics in Human Genetics	3
STAT/B M I 641	Statistical Methods for Clinical Trials	3
STAT/B M I 642	Statistical Methods for Epidemiology	3
STAT/B M I 643	Clinical Trial Design, Implementation, and Analysis	3
STAT 701	Applied Time Series Analysis, Forecasting and Control I	3
STAT/COMP SCI/ISY E/MATH 726	Nonlinear Optimization I	3
STAT/B M I 727	Theory and Methods of Longitudinal Data Analysis	3
STAT 732	Large Sample Theory of Statistical Inference	3
STAT/MATH 733	Theory of Probability I	3
STAT/MATH 734	Theory of Probability II	3
STAT/B M I 741	Survival Analysis Theory and Methods	3
STAT 760	Multivariate Analysis I	3
STAT 761	Decision Trees for Multivariate Analysis	3
STAT/B M I 768	Statistical Methods for Medical Image Analysis	3

STAT 772	Linear Randomized Algorithms for Data Science	3
STAT/ECON/ GEN BUS 775	Bayesian Statistics	3
STAT 780	Introduction to Quantum Data Science	3
STAT 801	Advanced Financial Statistics	3
STAT/MATH 803	Experimental Design I	3
STAT 809	Non Parametric Statistics	3
STAT/B M I 828	Semiparametric Methods in Data Science	3
STAT/MATH 833	Topics in the Theory of Probability ¹	3
STAT 841	Nonparametric Statistics and Machine Learning Methods	3
STAT/COMP SCI/ E C E 861	Theoretical Foundations of Machine Learning	3
STAT/B M I 877	Statistical Methods for Molecular Biology	3
STAT/E C E/ MATH 888	Topics in Mathematical Data Science ¹	1-3
STAT 992	Seminar ¹	1-3
MATH 521	Analysis I	3

¹ Students may not apply multiple special topics courses with the same topic title towards their degree.

POLICIES

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures (<https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/>) serve as the official document of record for Graduate School academic and administrative policies and procedures and are updated continuously. Note some policies redirect to entries in the official UW-Madison Policy Library (<https://policy.wisc.edu/>). Programs may set more stringent policies than the Graduate School. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

NAMED OPTION-SPECIFIC POLICIES

PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions

Refer to the Graduate School: Transfer Credits for Prior Coursework (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/>) policy.

Undergraduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions or UW-Madison

With program approval, up to 6 Statistics (STAT) (<https://guide.wisc.edu/courses/stat/>) credits from a UW-Madison undergraduate degree numbered 600 or above may transfer toward minimum graduate degree credits. Coursework earned ten or more years prior to admission to a doctoral degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements. Transfer credits from other institutions are not accepted.

Credits Earned as a Professional Student at UW-Madison (Law, Medicine, Pharmacy, and Veterinary careers)

Refer to the Graduate School: Transfer Credits for Prior Coursework (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/>) policy.

Credits Earned as a University Special Student at UW-Madison

With program approval, up to 15 Statistics (STAT) (<https://guide.wisc.edu/courses/stat/>) credits completed at UW-Madison while a University Special student numbered 300 or above are allowed to transfer toward the minimum graduate degree credit requirement. Of these credits, those numbered 700 or above or are taken to meet the requirements of a capstone certificate and has the "Grad 50%" attribute may also transfer toward the minimum graduate coursework (50%) requirement. Coursework earned ten or more years prior to admission to a doctoral degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

PROBATION

Three consecutive reviews in which a student fails to meet the minimum criteria for satisfactory progress will result in the student being dropped from the program. Contact the program for more information.

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

Students are required to meet with their advisor near the beginning of each semester to discuss course selection and progress.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

15 credit maximum. Refer to the Graduate School: Maximum Credit Loads and Overload Requests (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1228/>) policy.

TIME LIMITS

Students must pass the PhD qualifying examination within six semesters from the first fall semester of registration as a graduate student in the department. Students who complete a master's in the department and then are admitted to the PhD program must pass the PhD qualifying examination within four semesters after entering the PhD program.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS

These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

- Bias or Hate Reporting (<https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/>)
- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure>)
- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/>)
 - Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (<https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/>)
- Employee Assistance (<http://www.eao.wisc.edu/>) (for personal counseling and workplace consultation around communication and conflict involving graduate assistants and other employees, post-doctoral students, faculty and staff)
- Employee Disability Resource Office (<https://employee disabilities.wisc.edu/>) (for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities)
- Graduate School (<https://grad.wisc.edu/>) (for informal advice at any level of review and for official appeals of program/departmental or school/college grievance decisions)

- Office of Compliance (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/>) (for class harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence)
- Office Student Assistance and Support (OSAS) (<https://osas.wisc.edu/>) (for all students to seek grievance assistance and support)
- Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (<https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/>) (for conflicts involving students)
- Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (<http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/>) (for employed graduate students and post-docs, as well as faculty and staff)
- Title IX (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/>) (for concerns about discrimination)

L&S POLICY FOR GRADUATE STUDENT ACADEMIC APPEALS

Graduate students have the right to appeal an academic decision related to an L&S graduate program if the student believes that the decision is inconsistent with published policy.

Academic decisions that may be appealed include:

- Dismissal from the graduate program
- Failure to pass a qualifying or preliminary examination
- Failure to achieve satisfactory academic progress
- Academic disciplinary action related to failure to meet professional conduct standards

Issues such as the following cannot be appealed using this process:

- A faculty member declining to serve as a graduate student's advisor.
- Decisions regarding the student's disciplinary knowledge, evaluation of the quality of work, or similar judgements. These are the domain of the department faculty.
- Course grades. These can be appealed instead using the L&S Policy for Grade Appeal (<https://kb.wisc.edu/lis/22258/>).
- Incidents of bias or hate, hostile and intimidating behavior (<https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/>), or discrimination (Title IX (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/>), Office of Compliance (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/eo-complaint/formal-investigations/>)). Direct these to the linked campus offices appropriate for the incident(s).

Appeal Process for Graduate Students

A graduate student wishing to appeal an academic decision must follow the process in the order listed below. Note time limits within each step.

1. The student should first seek informal resolution, if possible, by discussing the concern with their academic advisor, the department's Director of Graduate Studies, and/or the department chair.
2. If the program has an appeal policy listed in their graduate program handbook, the student should follow the policy as written, including adhering to any indicated deadlines. In the absence of a specific departmental process, the chair or designee will be the reviewer and decision maker, and the student should submit a written appeal to the chair within 15 business days of the academic decision. The chair or designee will notify the student in writing of their decision.
3. If the departmental process upholds the original decision, the graduate student may next initiate an appeal to L&S. To do so, the student must submit a written appeal to the L&S Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Academic Affairs within 15 business days of notification of the department's decision.

- a. To the fullest extent possible, the written appeal should include, in a single document: a clear and concise statement of the academic decision being appealed, any relevant background on what led to the decision, the specific policies involved, the relief sought, any relevant documentation related to the departmental appeal, and the names and titles of any individuals contributing to or involved in the decision.
 - b. The Assistant Dean will work with the Academic Associate Dean of the appropriate division to consider the appeal. They may seek additional information and/or meetings related to the case.
 - c. The Assistant Dean and Academic Associate Dean will provide a written decision within 20 business days.
4. If L&S upholds the original decision, the graduate student may appeal to the Graduate School. More information can be found on their website: Grievances and Appeals (<https://grad.wisc.edu/documents/grievances-and-appeals/>) (see: Graduate School Appeal Process).

OTHER

Students pursuing the general statistics and biostatistics options are considered for department financial support and may seek a dual degree if desired.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Take advantage of the Graduate School's professional development resources (<https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/>) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.