STATISTICS, B.S.

Modern statistics is an exciting subject that affects most aspects of modern living. It has been developed to deal rationally and objectively with the uncertainty that accompanies variation in phenomena as highly complex as the interplay of the many factors that affect our environment. It derives vitality in coping with practical problems arising in all fields of scientific activity, including the social, business, biological, agricultural, medical, natural, and engineering sciences. Investigators’ efforts to learn about a specific phenomenon, be it the response of a patient to a certain medical treatment or the effectiveness of a particular instructional program on a student’s learning, are impacted by the presence of natural variation. The field of statistics is concerned with valid and efficient ways to learn more about these phenomena in the presence of such variation. It is an inductive science in which information is extracted from sample data in order to draw inferences. This process most often involves planning experiments or designing studies to ensure that valid answers to questions are obtained from the sample.

HOW TO GET IN

To declare the statistics major, student should set up an appointment with a statistics major advisor prior to attaining senior standing (86 credits).

Prospective majors are strongly recommended to have completed the following classes before declaring the major:

- MATH 221 Calculus and Analytic Geometry 1
- MATH 222 Calculus and Analytic Geometry 2
- MATH 234 Calculus—Functions of Several Variables
- STAT 302 Accelerated Introduction to Statistical Methods

Requirements

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatetestudytext) section of the Guide.

Requirements Detail

General Education

- Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
- Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
- Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits
- Communication Part A & Part B *
- Ethnic Studies *
- Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE

BREADTH AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS:

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.S.)

Students pursuing a bachelor of science degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum. View a comparison of the degree requirements here. (https://pubs.wisc.edu/home/archives/ug15/images/babs2009.pdf)

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Requirements

Mathematics

Two (2) 3+ credits of intermediate/advanced level MATH, COMP SCI, STAT

Limit one each: COMP SCI, STAT

Foreign Language

Complete the third unit of a foreign language

Note: A unit is one year of high school work or one semester/term of college work.

L&S Breadth

- Humanities, 12 credits: 6 of the 12 credits must be in literature
- Social Sciences, 12 credits
- Natural Sciences, 12 credits: must include 6 credits in biological science; and must include 6 credits in physical science

Liberal Arts and Science Coursework

108 credits

Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work

60 intermediate or advanced credits

Major

Declare and complete at least one (1) major

Total Credits

120 credits

UW-Madison Experience

30 credits in residence, overall

Minimum

2.000 in all coursework at UW–Madison

GPAs

2.000 in intermediate/advanced coursework at UW–Madison
## Non–L&S Students Pursuing an L&S Major

Non–L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements and do not need to complete the L&S breadth and degree requirements above.

### Requirements for the Major

**Code** | **Title** | **Credits**
--- | --- | ---
MATH 221 | Calculus and Analytic Geometry 1 (must be completed with grade of C or higher) | 5
MATH 222 | Calculus and Analytic Geometry 2 (must be completed with grade of C or higher) | 4
MATH 234 | Calculus–Functions of Several Variables (must be completed with grade of C or higher) | 4
MATH 340 | Elementary Matrix and Linear Algebra | 3

**Computer Programming**

Select one of the following: 2

- COMP SCI 200 Programming I
- COMP SCI 300 Programming II
- COMP SCI 301 Introduction to Data Programming
- COMP SCI 400 Programming III
- COMP SCI 412 Introduction to Numerical Methods
- COMP SCI/I SY E/ MATH/STAT 525 Linear Programming Methods

**Statistics Courses** 25

*Introductory Statistics and Basic Statistical Language*

- STAT 302 Accelerated Introduction to Statistical Methods
- STAT 327 Learning a Statistical Language (Introductory Data Analysis with R)

*Linear Statistical Models*

- STAT 333 Applied Regression Analysis
- STAT/M E 424 Statistical Experimental Design

*Mathematical Statistics*

**Probability (one course):** 3

- STAT/MATH 309 Introduction to Probability and Mathematical Statistics I
- STAT 311 Introduction to Theory and Methods of Mathematical Statistics I
- MATH/STAT 431 Introduction to the Theory of Probability

**Inference:**

- STAT/MATH 310 Introduction to Probability and Mathematical Statistics II

**Statistics Electives**

STAT electives to reach minimum credits required: 9

- STAT 349 Introduction to Time Series
- STAT 351 Introductory Nonparametric Statistics

### Concentration

Select either Math Concentration or Applied Concentration 6-12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STAT 411</td>
<td>An Introduction to Sample Survey Theory and Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 421</td>
<td>Applied Categorical Data Analysis</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>STAT 456</td>
<td>Applied Multivariate Analysis</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>STAT 461</td>
<td>Financial Statistics</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>STAT/COMP SCI 471</td>
<td>Introduction to Computational Statistics</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>STAT 479</td>
<td>Special Topics in Statistics</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>STAT 575</td>
<td>Statistical Methods for Spatial Data</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT/B M I 641</td>
<td>Statistical Methods for Clinical Trials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 679</td>
<td>Special Topics in Statistics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 699</td>
<td>Directed Study</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credits** 50-56

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1 An acceptable equivalent for all four of the required mathematics courses is MATH 275 Topics in Calculus I, MATH 276 Topics in Calculus II, MATH 375 Topics in Multi-Variable Calculus and Linear Algebra, and MATH 376 Topics in Multi-Variable Calculus and Differential Equations. MATH 275 and MATH 276 are acceptable equivalents for MATH 221 Calculus and Analytic Geometry 1 and MATH 222 Calculus and Analytic Geometry 2, respectively. MATH 211 Calculus and MATH 213 Calculus and Introduction to Differential Equations are NOT acceptable equivalents for MATH 221, MATH 222, and MATH 234 Calculus–Functions of Several Variables. Students who have completed MATH 211 and MATH 213 are encouraged to take the Department of Mathematics’ Calculus Exam to determine placement in the MATH 221–MATH 222–MATH 234 sequence.

2 COMP SCI 300 is highly recommended because it will be particularly beneficial in most future careers. Students who have prior computing experience equivalent to COMP SCI 200 (such as AP computer science) are recommended to take COMP SCI 300, and students who will pursue a second major in computer science must take COMP SCI 300 and COMP SCI 400 to satisfy the computer science major requirements.

3 STAT 312 Introduction to Theory and Methods of Mathematical Statistics II will not be accepted in lieu of STAT/MATH 310 Introduction to Probability and Mathematical Statistics II.

4 STAT 479 Special Topics in Statistics can be repeated for elective credit when enrolled for different topics.

5 Up to 3 credits of STAT 699 Directed Study can count toward these 9 credits. No course identified in Concentration 1 of the major can count towards these 9 credits.

### Mathematics Concentration

Students intending to pursue graduate study in statistics are strongly advised to take more math classes than the minimum requirements. Linear algebra and real analysis are typically the most important areas of mathematics needed for graduate study in statistics.

Select at least 6 additional credits of the following:

**Code** | **Title** | **Credits**
--- | --- | ---
| MATH 319 | Techniques in Ordinary Differential Equations | 3 |
following additional requirements:

To earn a B.A. or B.S. with Honors in the Major in Statistics, students

must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the

overall university GPA, and must have completed

Statistics major advisor(s). To be admitted to the Honors Program

Students may declare Honors in the Statistics Major in consultation with

APPLIED CONCENTRATION

Select at least 12 credits of coursework at the 300 level and higher

in an area of application of statistical methods as approved by the

student’s major advisor. This area of application can represent study

areas where statistical methods are applied, such as in the natural and

social sciences and engineering. This requirement can often be met by

the completion of a major in such a study area.

L&S REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK IN THE MAJOR

1. 2.000 grade point average in all STAT and major courses

2. 2.000 grade point average in 15 credits of upper-level work in the

major completed in residence. Courses that count toward this

requirement are STAT courses: STAT 302 Accelerated Introduction to

Statistical Methods to STAT 699 Directed Study, excluding STAT 324

Introductory Applied Statistics for Engineers, STAT 371 Introductory

Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences, STAT 441 Introduction to

Biostatistics for Pharmacy, STAT/F&W ECOL/HORT 571 Statistical

Methods for Bioscience I, and STAT/F&W ECOL/HORT 572 Statistical

Methods for Bioscience II.

3. 15 credits in STAT subject, taken on campus

HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students may declare Honors in the Statistics Major in consultation with

the Statistics major advisor(s). To be admitted to the Honors Program

in Statistics, students must have declared statistics, must have a 3.500

overall university GPA, and must have completed STAT 302 Accelerated

Introduction to Statistical Methods, STAT/MATH 309 Introduction to

Probability and Mathematical Statistics I and STAT 333 Applied

Regression Analysis with a GPA of 3.500 or higher.

HONORS IN THE STATISTICS MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

To earn a B.A. or B.S. with Honors in the Major in Statistics, students

must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the

following additional requirements:

- Earn a 3.500 overall university GPA
- Earn a 3.500 GPA for all STAT courses, and all courses accepted in
  the major
- Complete one of the following:

  • Two courses, taken for Honors, with individual grades of B or
    better, from Linear Statistical Models, Mathematical Statistics, or
    Statistics Electives other than STAT 699 Directed Study, or
  • Complete an additional course worth 3 credits from the Statistics
    Electives list (for a total of 12 statistics electives)

  • Complete a two-semester Senior Honors Thesis in STAT 681 Senior
    Honors Thesis and STAT 682 Senior Honors Thesis, for a total of
    6 credits, under the supervision of a member of the faculty of the
    Department of Statistics.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Requirements Detail

Total Degree To receive a bachelor’s degree from UW–Madison,

students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements

for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult

with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit

requirements.

Residency Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30

credits in residence at UW–Madison. “In residence” means

on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate

degree classification. “In residence” credit also includes

UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online

formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study

Abroad/Study Away programs.

Quality of Work Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum

grade point average specified by the school, college, or

academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below

these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic

probation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will be able to frame a scientific question with the

appropiate mode of data analysis, to analyze such data correctly,

and to summarize and interpret the results in a useful manner. They

will master a number of key statistical techniques, certainly including

significance testing, goodness-of-fit testing, and regression analysis,

which are common tools in analyzing data. This will include a careful

checking of assumptions that underlie the techniques.

2. Students will be able to design experiments/studies — in conjunction

with scientists proposing the study — that will lead in an efficient

manner to the collection of data that can be properly analyzed. They

will be able to design studies with multiple factors taking variable

reduction techniques into account. They will also be able to interpret

and critique designs they encounter in analyzing data.

3. Students will be able to use tools from mathematical statistics and

probability to assess the quality of point estimators, confidence

intervals, and hypothesis tests. They will also be able to demonstrate

the skills to connect methods of application to their theoretical

underpinnings.

4. Students will be able to use a statistical language (with emphasis on

R) to manipulate data and perform exploratory data analysis using

basic statistical methods. They will be able to write structured R

programs using conditional expressions, loops, and functions and to

use regular expressions to extract data from text and make high-level

visualizations.
5. Students will be able to evaluate critically articles that use statistical argumentation. They will be able to assess whether or not the statistical arguments have been developed properly and the conclusions are reliable. If the arguments are not properly developed, they will be able to provide specific evidence for this.

**STUDENT SERVICES COORDINATOR**

Nguyen

**ADVISING AND CAREERS**

**Looking for statistics advising?**

Students who are interested in statistics academic advising for the statistics major should contact the advisor group by email: advising@stat.wisc.edu.

**So what can you do with a statistics major after you graduate?**

Well-trained statisticians are in strong demand and have excellent employment prospects. Statisticians work in industry and business, in government, and in universities and other research institutions.

In most cases an undergraduate major in statistics can find employment as a quantitative analyst or other "generalist" position. A number of our graduates have been successful following this path. However, in most cases, positions aimed at "professional statisticians" require a master's (or Ph.D.) degree. As a professional statistician, typical employment in industry might be as a statistical consultant to biologists, engineers, and/or other scientists in a research and development branch of a large company.


Statistical training is seen as very desirable in many other areas (e.g., agricultural, biological, engineering, and social sciences, business, and economics) where the primary activity may not be statistics. In view of this, statistics may often be a strong choice for a second or additional major.

**PEOPLE**

**FACULTY**

Ané, Chappell, Clayton, Kang, Keles, Larget, Loh, Newton, Qian, Raskutti, Rohe, Shao, Tsui, Wahba, S. Wang, Y. Wang (chair), Yandell, Yuan, C. Zhang, Z. Zhang, A. Zhang, Zhu

**EMERITUS**

Bates, Draper, Johnson, Nordheim, Wardrop, and Doksum (retired)

**TEACHING STAFF**

Bean, Fischer, Gillett, Keuler, Li, Xia, Yang

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Brinkerhoff (curricular coordinator), Runyan (department administrator)

**IT STAFF**

Beebe, Brabender, Cammilleri (director)