Statistics, B.A.

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, students should schedule an appointment with a statistics major advisor prior to attaining senior standing (86 credits).

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.

- 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.

Requirements for the Major

Mathematics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 221</td>
<td>Calculus and Analytic Geometry 1</td>
<td>5-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 171</td>
<td>Calculus with Algebra and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; MATH 217</td>
<td>Trigonometry I and Calculus with Algebra and</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trigonometry II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 275</td>
<td>Topics in Calculus 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Statistics, B.A.

Calculus 2 (Complete one): 4-5
- MATH 222 Calculus and Analytic Geometry 2
- MATH 276 Topics in Calculus II

Calculus 3 (Complete one): 4-5
- MATH 234 Calculus–Functions of Several Variables
- MATH 375 Topics in Multi-Variable Calculus and Linear Algebra

Linear Algebra (Complete one): 3-5
- MATH 340 Elementary Matrix and Linear Algebra
- MATH 320 Linear Algebra and Differential Equations
- MATH 341 Linear Algebra
- MATH 376 Topics in Multi-Variable Calculus and Differential Equations

Total Credits: 16-25

COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMP SCI 200</td>
<td>Programming I</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP SCI 220</td>
<td>Data Science Programming I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP SCI 300</td>
<td>Programming II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP SCI 320</td>
<td>Data Science Programming II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP SCI 400</td>
<td>Programming III</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP SCI 412</td>
<td>Introduction to Numerical Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits: 3-4

STATISTICS

Introductory Statistics & Basic Statistical Language: 4-5
- STAT 302 Accelerated Introduction to Statistical Methods
  or STAT 301 Introduction to Statistical Methods
  or STAT 324 Introductory Applied Statistics for Engineers
  or STAT 371 Introductory Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences
  or STAT 240 Introduction to Data Modeling I
- STAT 303 R for Statistics I

Statistical Models: 6-7
- STAT 333 Applied Regression Analysis
  or STAT 340 Introduction to Data Modeling II
- STAT/M E 424 Statistical Experimental Design

Probability (Complete one): 3
- STAT/MATH 309 Introduction to Probability and Mathematical Statistics I
- STAT 311 Introduction to Theory and Methods of Mathematical Statistics I
- STAT/MATH 431 Introduction to the Theory of Probability

Inference: 3
- STAT/MATH 310 Introduction to Probability and Mathematical Statistics II

Electives: 15
- STAT 304 R for Statistics II
- STAT 305 R for Statistics III
- STAT 327 Learning a Statistical Language
- STAT 349 Introduction to Time Series
- STAT 351 Introductory Nonparametric Statistics
- STAT 360 Topics in Statistics Study Abroad
- STAT 411 An Introduction to Sample Survey Theory and Methods
- STAT 421 Applied Categorical Data Analysis
- STAT 433 Data Science with R
- STAT 443 Classification and Regression Trees
- STAT 451 Introduction to Machine Learning and Statistical Pattern Classification
- STAT 453 Introduction to Deep Learning and Generative Models
- STAT 456 Applied Multivariate Analysis
- STAT 461 Financial Statistics
- STAT/COMP SCI/ MATH 475 Introduction to Combinatorics
- STAT 479 Special Topics in Statistics ²
- STAT/COMP SCI/ I SY E/MATH 525 Linear Optimization
- STAT/I SY E/ MATH/OTM 632 Introduction to Stochastic Processes
- STAT/B M I 641 Statistical Methods for Clinical Trials
- STAT/B M I 642 Statistical Methods for Epidemiology
- STAT 679 Special Topics in Statistics ²

Total Credits: 31-33

RESIDENCE & QUALITY OF WORK
- 2.000 GPA in all STAT and major courses
- 2.000 GPA on 15 Upper-Level Major credits, taken In Residence ³
- 15 credits in STAT courses, taken on the UW-Madison 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 University GPA, and must have completed STAT 302, STAT/MATH 309, and STAT 333 (or other courses with the approval of the advisor) with a GPA of 3.500 or higher in these three classes.

HONORS IN THE STATISTICS MAJOR: REQUIREMENTS

To earn Honors in the Major in Statistics, students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:
FOOTNOTES
1. A grade of C or higher is required for this course to meet the requirement.
2. STAT 479 and STAT 679 can be repeated for elective credit when enrolled for different topics.
3. Courses that are considered Upper-Level in the major are STAT 303, STAT 304, STAT 305, STAT/MATH 309, STAT/MATH 310, STAT 311, STAT 312, STAT 327, STAT 333, STAT 349, STAT 351, STAT 360, STAT 411, STAT 421, STAT/MATH 424, STAT/MATH 431, STAT 432, STAT 433, STAT 443, STAT 451, STAT 453, STAT 456, STAT 461, STAT/COMP SCI 471, STAT/COMP SCI/MATH 475, STAT 479, STAT 575, STAT/I SY E/MATH/OTM 632, STAT/B M I 641, STAT/B M I 642 and STAT 699.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

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. Frame a scientific question with the appropriate mode of data analysis, to analyze such data correctly, and to summarize and interpret the results in a useful manner. 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. 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. Design studies with multiple factors taking variable reduction techniques into account. Interpret and critique designs they encounter in analyzing data.
3. Use tools from mathematical statistics and probability to assess the quality of point estimators, confidence intervals, and hypothesis tests. Demonstrate the skills to connect methods of application to their theoretical underpinnings.
4. Use a statistical language (with emphasis on R) to manipulate data and perform exploratory data analysis using basic statistical methods. 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. Evaluate critically articles that use statistical argumentation. 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.

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR PLAN
This Sample Four-Year Plan is a tool to assist students and their advisor(s). Students should use it—along with their DARS report, the Degree Planner, and Course Search & Enroll tools—to make their own four-year plan based on their placement scores, credit for transferred courses and approved examinations, and individual interests. As students become involved in athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, volunteer experiences, and/or work, they might adjust the order of their courses to accommodate these experiences. Students will likely revise their own four-year plan several times during college.

First Year

Fall Credits Spring Credits
Communication A 3 MATH 222 4
MATH 221 5 COMP SCI 200 or 220 3-4
Foreign Language 4 Ethnic Studies course 4
Physical Science Breadth 3 Foreign Language 4

15 15

Second Year

Fall Credits Spring Credits
Consider Honors In the Major
MATH 234 4 STAT 333 or 340 3-4
Introductory Statistics course 3-4 MATH 320, 340, or 341 3
Communications B 3 INTER-LS 210 1
Social Science Breadth 3 Biological Science Breadth 3
Humanities Breadth 3 Literature Breadth 3

16 14

Third Year

Fall Credits Spring Credits
Declare the Major
STAT/MATH 309 3 STAT elective course 3
STAT/MATH 310 3 Literature Breadth 3
Social Science Breadth 6 Social Science Breadth 3
Humanities Breadth 3 Elective 3

15 15
Third-year plans may vary considerably from student to student, depending on their individual preparation and circumstances. Students interested in graduating in three years should meet with an advisor as early as possible to discuss feasibility, appropriate course sequencing, post-graduation plans (careers, graduate school, etc.), and opportunities they might forgo in pursuit of a three-year graduation plan.

DEPARTMENTAL EXPECTATIONS

A three-year degree is feasible for students with a variety of backgrounds and specific preparation. Students should ideally be entering the University with a minimum of 30 advanced standing credits, and have satisfied the following requirements with course credit or via placement examination:

- 3-4 units of foreign language
- At least 3 credits of L&S Breadth (Humanities, Social Science, Biological Science, or Physical Science)

### SAMPLE THREE-YEAR PLAN

This Sample Three-Year Plan is a tool to assist students and their advisor(s). Students should use it — along with their DARS report, the Degree Planner, and Course Search & Enroll tools — to make their own three-year plan based on their placement scores, credit for transferred courses and approved examinations, and individual interests.

### ADVISING AND CAREERS

Looking for Statistics Advising?

Students who are interested in statistics academic advising for the statistics major should visit the Undergraduate Statistics Advising (https://stat.wisc.edu/undergraduate-statistics-major/) website or 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.

### L&S CAREER RESOURCES

SuccessWorks at the College of Letters & Science helps students leverage the academic skills learned in their major, certificates, and liberal arts degree; explore and try out different career paths; participate...
in internships; prepare for the job search and/or graduate school applications; and network with professionals in the field (alumni and employers). In short, SuccessWorks helps students in the College of Letters & Science discover themselves, find opportunities, and develop the skills they need for success after graduation.

SuccessWorks can also assist students in career advising, résumé and cover letter writing, networking opportunities, and interview skills, as well as course offerings for undergraduates to begin their career exploration early in their undergraduate career.

Students should set up their profiles in Handshake (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/handshake/) to take care of everything they need to explore career events, manage their campus interviews, and apply to jobs and internships from 200,000+ employers around the country.

- SuccessWorks (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/)
- Set up a career advising appointment (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/)
- INTER-LS 210 L&S Career Development: Taking Initiative (1 credit, targeted to first- and second-year students)—for more information, see Inter-LS 210: Career Development, Taking Initiative (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/inter-ls-210-career-development-taking-initiative/)
- INTER-LS 215 Communicating About Careers (3 credits, fulfills Com B General Education Requirement)
- Handshake (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/handshake/)
- Learn how we’re transforming career preparation: L&S Career Initiative (http://ls.wisc.edu/lsci/)

PEOPLE

Professors J. Zhu (chair), Ane, Chappell, Chien, Keles, Larget, Loh, Newton, Shao, Y. Wang, Yandell, C. Zhang, Z. Zhang; Associate Professor Rohe; Assistant Professors Cisewski-Kehe, Garcia Trillos, Kang, Levin, Patel, Raschka, Raskutti, Sankaran, M. Wang, A Zhang