The Ph.D. is conferred upon candidates who have demonstrated substantial scholarship and the ability to conduct independent research and analysis in Statistics. Through completion of advanced course work and rigorous skills training, the doctoral program prepares students to make original contributions to the knowledge of Statistics and to interpret and present the results of such research.

The Department of Statistics offers two minor programs for undergraduates, a minor in Data Science and a minor in Statistics. To declare either minor for a degree program, visit the Statistics website (https://statistics.stanford.edu/academic-programs/undergraduate-programs) and submit the appropriate form to the department.

**Minor in Data Science**
The undergraduate Data Science minor has been designed for majors in the humanities and social sciences who want to gain practical knowledge of statistical data analytic methods as it relates to their field of interest. The minor:

- provides students with the knowledge of exploratory and confirmatory data analyses of diverse data types such as text, numbers, images, graphs, trees, and binary input
- strengthens social research by teaching students how to correctly apply data analysis tools and the techniques of data visualization to convey their conclusions.

No previous programming or statistical background is assumed.

**Learning Outcomes**
Students are expected to:
1. be able to connect data to underlying phenomena and to think critically about conclusions drawn from data analysis.
2. be knowledgeable about programming abstractions so that they can later design their own computational inferential procedures.

All courses for the minor must be taken for a letter grade, with the exception of the Data Mining requirement.

Seven courses are required, 22 units minimum. An overall 2.75 grade point average (GPA) is required for courses fulfilling the minor.

**Requirements**

**Linear Algebra**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 51</td>
<td>Linear Algebra, Multivariable Calculus, and Modern Applications</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CME 100</td>
<td>Vector Calculus for Engineers</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Programming**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CS 106A</td>
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**Programming in R**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STATS 32</td>
<td>Introduction to R for Undergraduates</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATS 195</td>
<td>Introduction to R</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THINK 3</td>
<td>Breaking Codes, Finding Patterns</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATS 48N</td>
<td>Riding the Data Wave</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Or other course that teaches proficiency in R programming.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Data Science**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STATS 101</td>
<td>Data Science 101</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Undergraduate Programs in Statistics**
The department offers a minor in Statistics and in Data Science (https://statistics.stanford.edu/academics/undergraduate-programs). Program details can be found under the Minor section.

**Undergraduates Interested in Statistics**
Students wishing to build a concentration in probability and statistics are encouraged to consider declaring a major in Mathematical and Computational Science (https://mcs.stanford.edu). This interdisciplinary program is administered in the Department of Statistics and provides core training in computing, mathematics, operations research, and statistics, with opportunities for further elective work and specialization. See the "Mathematical and Computational Science" section of this bulletin.

**Graduate Programs in Statistics**
University requirements for the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees are discussed in the "Graduate Degrees (http://exploredegrees.stanford.edu/graduatedegrees)" section of this bulletin.

**Learning Outcomes (Graduate)**
The purpose of the master’s program is to further develop knowledge and skills in Statistics and to prepare students for a professional career or doctoral studies. This is achieved through completion of courses, in the primary field as well as related areas, and experience with independent work and specialization.

The Ph.D. is conferred upon candidates who have demonstrated substantial scholarship and the ability to conduct independent research and analysis in Statistics. Through completion of advanced course work and rigorous skills training, the doctoral program prepares students to make original contributions to the knowledge of Statistics and to interpret and present the results of such research.

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The undergraduate minor in Statistics is designed to complement major degree programs primarily in the social and natural sciences. Students with an undergraduate Statistics minor should find broadened possibilities for employment. The Statistics minor provides valuable preparation for professional degree studies in postgraduate academic programs.

The minor consists of a minimum of six courses with a total of at least 20 units. There are two required courses (8 units) and four qualifying or elective courses (12 or more units). All courses for the minor must be taken for a letter grade. An overall 2.75 grade point average (GPA) is required for courses fulfilling the minor.

### Required Courses

**Both:**

- **STATS 116** Theory of Probability 3-5
- **STATS 200** Introduction to Statistical Inference 3

### Qualifying Courses

At most, one of these two courses may be counted toward the six course requirement for the minor:

#### Elective Course

One course fulfilling Data Science methodology from cognate field of interest. Suggested courses:

- **CS 224W** Analysis of Networks 3-4
- **ECON 291** Social and Economic Networks 2-5
- **ENGLISH 184E** Literary Text Mining 5
- **LINGUIST 275** Probability and Statistics for linguists 2-4
- **MS&E 135** Networks 3
- **PHIL 50S** 3
- **PHIL 166** Probability: Ten Great Ideas About Chance 4
- **POLISCI 150B** Machine Learning for Social Scientists 5
- **POLISCI 155** 5
- **POLISCI 450A** Political Methodology I: Regression 5
- **PSYCH 109** An introduction to computation and cognition 4
- **PUBLPOL 105** Empirical Methods in Public Policy 4-5
- **SOC 126** Introduction to Social Networks 4
- **SOC 180A** Foundations of Social Research 4
  or **SOC 180B** Introduction to Data Analysis 4

### Data Mining and Analysis

- **STATS 202** Data Mining and Analysis (may be taken CR/NC) 3

### Minor in Statistics

The undergraduate minor in Statistics is designed to complement major degree programs primarily in the social and natural sciences. Students with an undergraduate Statistics minor should find broadened possibilities for employment. The Statistics minor provides valuable preparation for professional degree studies in postgraduate academic programs.

The minor consists of a minimum of six courses with a total of at least 20 units. There are two required courses (8 units) and four qualifying or elective courses (12 or more units). All courses for the minor must be taken for a letter grade. An overall 2.75 grade point average (GPA) is required for courses fulfilling the minor.

### Elective Courses

At least one of the elective courses should be a STATS 200-level course. The remaining two elective courses may also be 200-level courses. Alternatively, one or two elective courses may be approved courses in other departments. Special topics courses and seminars for undergraduates are offered from time to time by the department, and these may be counted toward the course requirement. Students may not count any Statistics courses below the 100 level toward the minor.

### Examples of elective course sequences are:

#### Data Analysis and Applied Statistics

- **STATS 202** Data Mining and Analysis 3
- **STATS 203** Introduction to Regression Models and Analysis of Variance 3

#### Statistical Methodology

- **STATS 205** Introduction to Nonparametric Statistics 3
- **STATS 206** Applied Multivariate Analysis 3
- **STATS 207** Introduction to Time Series Analysis 3

#### Economic Optimization

- **STATS 206** Applied Multivariate Analysis 3
- **ECON 160** Game Theory and Economic Applications 5

#### Probability Modeling and Experiments

- **STATS 206** Applied Multivariate Analysis 3

#### Signal Processing

- **STATS 207** Introduction to Time Series Analysis 3
- **EE 264** Digital Signal Processing 3
- **EE 279** Introduction to Digital Communication 3

#### Genetic and Ecologic Modeling

- **STATS 217** Introduction to Stochastic Processes I 3
- **BIO 283** Theoretical Population Genetics 3

#### Mathematical Finances

- **STATS 240** Statistical Methods in Finance 3-4
- **STATS 243** Risk Analytics and Management in Finance and Insurance 3
- **STATS 250** Mathematical Finance 3

### Master of Science in Statistics

The University’s basic requirements for the M.S. degree are discussed in the “Graduate Degrees” (http://exploredegrees.stanford.edu/graduatedegrees) section of this bulletin. The following are specific departmental requirements.

The M.S. in Statistics and the M.S. in Statistics, Data Science track, are intended as terminal degree programs and do not lead to the Ph.D. program in Statistics. Students interested in pursuing doctoral study in Statistics should apply directly to the Ph.D. program.

### Admission

Prospective applicants should consult the Graduate Admissions (https://gradadmissions.stanford.edu) and the Statistics Department admissions
web pages (https://statistics.stanford.edu/academics/admissions) for complete information on admission requirements and deadlines.

Recommended preparatory courses include advanced undergraduate level courses in linear algebra, statistics/probability and proficiency in programming.

Stanford students interested in the Data Science subplan in Statistics must apply as external candidates. Visit Graduate Admissions (https://gradadmissions.stanford.edu) to start an application.

**Coterminal Master's Program**

Stanford undergraduates who want to apply for the coterminal master's degree must submit a complete application to the department by the deadline published on Statistics Department admissions web page. (https://statistics.stanford.edu/academics/ms-coterm-apply)

Applications are accepted twice a year in Autumn and Winter quarters for the coterminal master's degree program in Statistics.

Students pursuing the Statistics coterminal master's degree must follow the same curriculum requirements stated in the Requirements for the Master of Science in Statistics section.

**University Coterminal Requirements**

Coterminal master's degree candidates are expected to complete all master's degree requirements as described in this bulletin. University requirements for the coterminal master's degree are described in the "Coterminal Master's Program (http://exploredegrees.stanford.edu/cotermdegrees)" section. University requirements for the master's degree are described in the "Graduate Degrees (http://exploredegrees.stanford.edu/graduatedegrees/#masterstext)" section of this bulletin.

After accepting admission to this coterminal master's degree program, students may request transfer of courses from the undergraduate to the graduate career to satisfy requirements for the master's degree. Transfer of courses to the graduate career requires review and approval of both the undergraduate and graduate programs on a case by case basis.

In this master's program, courses taken three quarters prior to the first graduate quarter, or later, are eligible for consideration for transfer to the graduate career. No courses taken prior to the first quarter of the sophomore year may be used to meet master's degree requirements.

Course transfers are not possible after the bachelor's degree has been conferred.

The University requires that the graduate adviser be assigned in the student's first graduate quarter even though the undergraduate career may still be open. The University also requires that the Master's Degree Program Proposal be completed by the student and approved by the department by the end of the student's first graduate quarter.

**Master of Science in Statistics**

**Curriculum and Degree Requirements**

The department requires that a master's student take 45 units of work from offerings in the Department of Statistics (http://explorecourses.stanford.edu/search?view=filter-coursesstatus-Active=on&query=stats&academicYear=any&or=/stats&pg=0&catalog=) or from authorized courses in other departments. With the advice of the master's program advisers, each student selects his or her own set of electives.

All requirements for a master's degree, including the coterminal master's degree, must be completed within three years after the student's first term of enrollment in the master's program. Ordinarily, four or five quarters are needed to complete all requirements. Honors Cooperative students must finish within five years.

Units for a given course may not be counted to meet the requirements of more than one degree, with the exception that up to 45 units of a Stanford M.A. or M.S. degree may be applied to the residency requirement for the Ph.D., D.M.A. or Engineer degrees. See the "Residency Policy for Graduate Students (http://exploredegrees.stanford.edu/graduatedegrees/#residencytext)" section of this Bulletin for University rules.

As defined in the general graduate student requirements, students must maintain a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 (or better) for courses used to fulfill degree requirements and classes must be taken at the 200 level or higher. No thesis is required.

**Master's Degree Program Proposal**

The Statistics Master's Degree Program Proposal form (https://statistics.stanford.edu/masters-program-proposal-form) must be submitted to the department's student services administrator prior to the end of the first quarter of enrollment in the program.

A revised program proposal must be submitted if degree plans change.

There is no thesis requirement.


1. **Statistics Core Courses (must complete all four courses):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Probability</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STATS 116 Theory of Probability</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   | Applied Statistics |
   |-----------------|-------|
   | STATS 203 Introduction to Regression Models and Analysis of Variance | 3 |
   | or STATS 305A Applied Statistics | |
   | or STATS 191 Introduction to Applied Statistics | |

   | Theoretical Statistics |
   |-----------------|-------|
   | STATS 200 Introduction to Statistical Inference | 2-3 |
   | or STATS 300A Theory of Statistics | |
   | or STATS 370 A Course in Bayesian Statistics | |

   | Stochastic Processes |
   |-----------------|-------|
   | STATS 217 Introduction to Stochastic Processes | 2-3 |
   | or STATS 218 Introduction to Stochastic Processes II | |
   | or STATS 219 Stochastic Processes | |
   | or STATS 318 Modern Markov Chains | |

   Students with prior background may replace each course with a more advanced course from the same area, or a more advanced course offered by the department, with consent of the adviser. All must be taken for a letter grade.

2. **Additional Statistics Courses:**

   At least four additional Statistics courses must be taken from graduate offerings in the department (STATS 202 through 376A), all must be taken for a letter grade (with the exception of courses offered satisfactory/no credit only); except for the following courses that may only be used to fulfill elective credit 3): STATS 260A Workshop in Biostatistics series, STATS 299 Independent Study, STATS 298 Industrial Research for Statisticians, and STATS 390 Consulting Workshop.

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3. Linear Algebra Mathematics Requirement:

Select one of the following:

- MATH 104 Applied Matrix Theory 3
- MATH 113 Linear Algebra and Matrix Theory 3
- MATH 115 Functions of a Real Variable 3
- MATH 171 Fundamental Concepts of Analysis 3

Substitution of more advanced courses in Mathematics, that provide similar skills, may be made with consent of the adviser. All must be taken for a letter grade, with the exception of courses offered satisfactory/no credit only.

4. Programming Requirement:

Select one of the following:

- CS 106A Programming Methodology 3
- CS 106B Programming Abstractions 3
- CS 106X Programming Abstractions (Accelerated) 3
- CS 107 Computer Organization and Systems 3-5
- CME 108 Introduction to Scientific Computing 3

Substitution more advanced courses in Computer Science, that provide similar skills, may be made with consent of the adviser. All must be taken for a letter grade, with the exception of courses offered satisfactory/no credit only.

5. Elective Courses:

Additional elective units to complete the requirements may be chosen from the list available from the department web site (https://statistics.stanford.edu/academics/statistics-ms-electives). Other graduate courses (200 or above) may be authorized by the adviser if they provide skills relevant to degree requirements or deal primarily with an application of statistics or probability and do not overlap courses in the student’s program.

There is sufficient flexibility to accommodate students with interests in applications to business, computing, economics, engineering, health, operations research, and biological and social sciences.

Students may enroll in up to 6 units of the following courses: 3

- STATS 260A Workshop in Biostatistics 1-2
- & STATS 260B and Workshop in Biostatistics 1-2
- & STATS 260C and Workshop in Biostatistics 1-2
- STATS 298 Industrial Research for Statisticians 1
- STATS 299 Independent Study 1-5
- STATS 390 Consulting Workshop 1-3

Courses below 200 level are not acceptable, with the following exceptions; however, students are strongly advised to avoid redundancy in coursework:

- STATS 191 Introduction to Applied Statistics 3-4
- MATH 115 Functions of a Real Variable 3
- MATH 171 Fundamental Concepts of Analysis 3
- CS 106A Programming Methodology 3-5
- CS 106B Programming Abstractions 3-5
- CS 106X Programming Abstractions (Accelerated) 3-5
- CS 140 Operating Systems and Systems Programming 3-4
- CS 142 Web Applications 3
- CS 143 Compilers 3-4
- CS 144 Introduction to Computer Networking 3-4

CS 145 Data Management and Data Systems 3-4
CS 147 Introduction to Human-Computer Interaction Design 3-5
CS 148 Introduction to Computer Graphics and Imaging 3-4
CS 149 Parallel Computing 3-4
CS 154 Introduction to Automata and Complexity Theory 3-4
CS 155 Computer and Network Security 3
CS 157 Computational Logic 3
CS 161 Design and Analysis of Algorithms 3-5
CS 170 Stanford Laptop Orchestra: Composition, Coding, and Performance 1-5
CS 181 Computers, Ethics, and Public Policy 4

And at most, one of these courses ay be counted as an elective. 4

1 Students who replace STATS116 with STATS217 must take a second course in Stochastic Processes or Probability.
2 Enrollment in STATS 116 after successful completion of STATS 217, 218 and/or 219, cannot count it towards degree requirements, including as an elective.
3 Students admitted to the Statistics M.S. program prior to academic year 2018-19 fulfill the requirements in effect at the time of their admission.
4 Enrollment in a course that provides redundant coursework cannot be used to fulfill the M.S. degree requirements.

Master of Science in Statistics, Data Science Track

The Data Science track develops strong mathematical, statistical, and computational and programming skills through the general master’s core and programming requirements. In addition, it provides a fundamental data science education through general and focused electives requirement from courses in data sciences and related areas. Course choices are limited to predefined courses from the data sciences and related courses group. Programming requirement (requirement 4) is extended to 6 units and includes course work in advanced scientific programming and high performance computing. The final requirement is a practical component (requirement 5) for 6 units to be completed through capstone project, data science clinic, or other courses that have strong hands-on or practical component, such as statistical consulting.

Admission

Prospective applicants should consult the Graduate Admissions (https://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/gradadmissions) and the Statistics Department admissions webpages (https://statistics.stanford.edu/academics/admissions) for complete information on admission requirements and deadlines.

Applicants apply to the Master of Science degree in Statistics and declare preference for the Data Science subplan (track) within the application (“Department Specialization” option).

Prerequisites

Recommended preparatory courses include advanced undergraduate level courses in linear algebra, probability, and introductory courses in PDEs, stochastics, numerical methods and proficiency in programming.
Curriculum and Degree Requirements

As defined in the general graduate student requirements, students must maintain a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or better and classes must be taken at the 200 level or higher. Students must complete 45 units of required coursework in Data Science.


This form must be signed and approved by the student's program adviser, to be submitted by the student to the department's student services administrator prior to the end of the first quarter of enrollment in the program. A revised program proposal must be submitted if degree plans change.

No thesis is required.

The Data Science subplan (track) is printed on the transcript and diploma.

Requirement 1: Foundational (12 units)

Students must demonstrate foundational knowledge in the field by completing the following core courses. Courses in this area must be taken for letter grades.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>CME 302</td>
<td>Numerical Linear Algebra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>CME 305</td>
<td>Discrete Mathematics and Algorithms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>CME 307</td>
<td>Optimization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>CME 308</td>
<td>Stochastic Methods in Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or CME 309</td>
<td>Randomized Algorithms and Probabilistic Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or STATS 310A</td>
<td>Theory of Probability I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Requirement 2: Programming (6 units)

To ensure that students have a strong foundation in programming, 3 units of advanced scientific programming for letter grade at the level of CME 212 and three units of parallel computing. Courses in this area must be taken for letter grades.

Programming proficiency at the level of CME 211 is a hard prerequisite for CME 212 (students may only place out of 211 with prior written approval).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>CME 211</td>
<td>Software Development for Scientists and Engineers (can only be used as an elective)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>CME 212</td>
<td>Advanced Software Development for Scientists and Engineers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parallel Computing/HCP courses: (3 units)

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>CME 213</td>
<td>Introduction to parallel computing using MPL, openMP and CUDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>CME 323</td>
<td>Distributed Algorithms and Optimization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>CME 342</td>
<td>Parallel Methods in Numerical Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>CS 149</td>
<td>Parallel Computing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>CS 316</td>
<td>Advanced Multi-Core Systems</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Requirement 3: Data Science Electives (12 units)

Data Science electives should demonstrate breadth of knowledge in the technical area. The elective course list is defined. Courses outside this list are subject to approval. Courses in this area must be taken for letter grades.

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>STATS 200</td>
<td>Introduction to Statistical Inference</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or STATS 300A</td>
<td>Theory of Statistics I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>STATS 203</td>
<td>Introduction to Regression Models and Analysis of Variance</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

or STATS 305A | Applied Statistics I |

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<thead>
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<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>STATS 315A</td>
<td>Modern Applied Statistics: Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>STATS 315B</td>
<td>Modern Applied Statistics: Data Mining</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

or equivalent courses as approved by the adviser.

Requirement 4: Specialized Electives (9 units)

Choose three courses in specialized areas from the following list. Courses outside this list are subject to approval.

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<tr>
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<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>BIOE 214</td>
<td>Representations and Algorithms for Computational Molecular Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>BIOMEDIN 215</td>
<td>Data Driven Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>BIOS 221/STATS 366</td>
<td>Modern Statistics for Modern Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>CS 224W</td>
<td>Analysis of Networks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>CS 229</td>
<td>Machine Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>CS 231N</td>
<td>Convolutional Neural Networks for Visual Recognition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>CS 246</td>
<td>Mining Massive Data Sets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>CS 448</td>
<td>Topics in Computer Graphics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>ECON 293</td>
<td>Machine Learning and Causal Inference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENERGY 240</td>
<td>Data science for geoscience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>OIT 367</td>
<td>Business Intelligence from Big Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>PSYCH 204A</td>
<td>Human Neuroimaging Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>STATS 290</td>
<td>Computing for Data Science</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Requirement 5: Practical Component (6 units)

Students are required to take 6 units of practical component that may include any combination of:

- Project labs offered by Stanford Data Lab: ENGR 150 Data Challenge Lab, and ENGR 350 Data Impact Lab. (Limited enrollment; application required.)
- Master’s research: STATS 299 Independent Study. A capstone project, supervised by a faculty member and approved by the student's adviser. The research project should be computational in nature. Students should submit a one-page proposal, supported by the faculty member and sent to the student's Data Science adviser for approval (at least one quarter prior to start of project). Should be taken for a letter grade.
- Other courses that have a strong hands-on and practical component, such as STATS 390 Consulting Workshop.

Doctor of Philosophy in Statistics

The department looks for students who wish to prepare for research careers in statistics or probability, either applied or theoretical. Advanced undergraduate or master’s level work in mathematics and statistics provides a good background for the doctoral program. Quantitatively oriented students with degrees in other scientific fields are also encouraged to apply for admission. The program normally takes five years to complete.

Program Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>STATS 300</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Statistics (offered Summer Quarter)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>STATS 300A</td>
<td>Theory of Statistics I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>STATS 300B</td>
<td>Theory of Statistics II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>STATS 300C</td>
<td>Theory of Statistics III</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Students who do not have enough mathematics background can take STATS 310A,B,C after their first year but need to have their first-year program approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.

Qualifying Examinations
These are intended to test the student’s level of knowledge when the first-year program, common to all students, has been completed. There are separate examinations in the three core subjects of statistical theory and methods, applied statistics, and probability theory, and all are typically taken during the summer between the student’s first and second years. Students are expected to show acceptable performance in two examinations. Letter grades are not given. After passing the qualifying exams students file for Ph.D. candidacy, a University milestone.

Breadth Requirement
Students are required to take 15 units of coursework outside of the department and are advised to choose an area of concentration in a specific scientific field of statistical applications approved by their Ph.D. program adviser.


Dissertation Reading Committee, Dissertation Proposal Meeting and University Oral Examinations
The dissertation reading committee consists of the student’s adviser plus two faculty readers, all of whom are responsible for reading and approving the full dissertation.

The dissertation proposal meeting is intended to demonstrate students’ depth in some areas of statistics, and to examine the general plan for their research. It also confirms that students have chosen a Ph.D. faculty adviser and have started to work with that adviser on a research topic. In the meeting, the student will give a 50-minute presentation and discuss their ideas for completing a Ph.D. thesis, with a committee typically consisting of the members of the dissertation reading committee. The meeting must be successfully completed by early spring quarter of the third year. “Successful completion” means that the general research plan is sound and has a reasonable chance of success. If the student does not pass, the meeting must be repeated. Repeated failure by the end of Year 3 can lead to a loss of financial support.

The oral examination/dissertation defense is scheduled when the student has finished their dissertation and is in the process of completing their final draft. The oral exam consists of a 50-minute presentation on the dissertation topic, followed by a question and answer period attended only by members of the examining committee. The questions relate both to the student’s presentation and also explore the student’s familiarity with broader statistical topics related to the thesis research. The oral examination is normally completed within the last few months of the student’s Ph.D. period. The examining committee usually consists of at least five members: four examiners including the three members of the Dissertation Reading Committee, plus an outside chair who serves as an impartial representative of the academic standards of the University. Four out of five passing votes are required and no grades are given. Nearly all students can expect to pass this examination, although it is common for specific recommendations to be made regarding completion of the written dissertation.

Financial Support
Students accepted to the Ph.D. program are offered financial support. All tuition expenses are paid and there is a fixed monthly stipend determined to be sufficient to pay living expenses. Financial support can be continued for five years, department resources permitting, for students in good standing. The resources for student financial support derive from funds made available for student teaching and research assistantships. Students receive both a teaching and research assignment each quarter.
which, together, do not exceed 20 hours. Students are encouraged to apply for outside scholarships, fellowships, and other forms of financial support.

**Ph.D. Minor in Statistics**

Students must complete 30 total units for the Ph.D. minor. 20 units must be from Statistics courses numbered 300 and above and taken for a letter grade (minimum grade of B for each course). The remaining 10 units can be from Statistics courses numbered 200 and above, and may be taken for a letter grade (minimum grade of B for each course) or credit. Students may not include more than three units of Stats 390, Consulting Workshop, towards the 30 units. The selection of courses must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies. The Application for the Ph.D. Minor form must be approved by both the student’s Ph.D. department and the Statistics department.

For further information about the Statistics Ph.D. degree program requirements, see the department web site (https://statistics.stanford.edu/academics/doctoral-program).

**Graduate Advising Expectations**

The Department of Statistics is committed to providing academic advising in support of graduate student scholarly and professional development. When most effective, this advising relationship entails collaborative and sustained engagement by both the adviser and the advisee. As a best practice, advising expectations should be periodically discussed and reviewed to ensure mutual understanding. Both the adviser and the advisee are expected to maintain professionalism and integrity.

Faculty advisers guide students in key areas such as selecting courses, designing and conducting research, developing of teaching pedagogy, navigating policies and degree requirements, and exploring academic opportunities and professional pathways.

Graduate students are active contributors to the advising relationship, proactively seeking academic and professional guidance and taking responsibility for informing themselves of policies and degree requirements for their graduate program.

For a statement of University policy on graduate advising, see the "Graduate Advising" section of this bulletin.

**Faculty**

*Emeriti: (Professors) Jerome H. Friedman, Paul Switzer*

*Chair: Art Owen*


*Assistant Professors: John Duchi, Tengyu Ma, Julia Palacios*

*Courtesy Professors: David Rogosa, Lu Tian*

*Courtesy Associate Professors: Mike Baiocchi, Percy Shuo Liang, Stefan Wager*

*Stein Fellows: James Johndrow, Yuting Wei, Lucy Xia, Yumeng Zhang, Xiang Zhu*