Statistics is a scientific discipline by which statisticians assist other scientists and researchers in making informed decisions in the face of uncertainty. Statisticians use skills in a variety of areas to solve problems. The application of statistics is the embodiment of the scientific method.

The Master of Science in Statistics is an applied statistics degree that prepares outstanding students for successful and productive careers. The graduate curriculum is designed to equip students with decision-making skills necessary for successful careers as professional statisticians. Although a firm foundation in theoretical statistics is provided, most of the courses are applied in nature, offering approaches to the solution of important real-world problems.

Twenty-five to thirty students are currently enrolled in the master’s program in statistics. Full-time students should complete the master’s program in two years.

**Admission Requirements**

Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited US university or equivalent, with a minimum 3.3 undergraduate GPA. We also require two methods courses beyond introductory statistics, a calculus-based statistical theory course, differential, integral, and multivariate calculus courses, and a linear algebra course. You must have a B- or higher in each course.

***A math minor is recommended.

**Admitted Students over last 5 years**

Average 1st Quartile: 3.87
Average 1st Quartile GRE-Quantitative: 163

**Masters Degree Requirements**

- Thesis or Project
  - Thesis Option (30): minimum 24 coursework hours plus 6 thesis hours (Stat 699R)
  - Project Option (33): minimum 30 coursework hours plus 3 project hours (Stat 698R)
- Required courses: Stat 535, 536, 624, 641, 642, and 9 hours of 600-level statistics courses
- Comprehensive written examination covering Stat 535, 536, 641, 642
- B- or better in each class with a cumulative 3.0 GPA in all MS degree classes

**97% Post graduation Placement**

**Employment (65%):**
Oracle
Aetna
Myriad Genetics
Eli Lilly
Stanford Law School
Walmart
TravelPass Group
Tax Hawk
University of Utah
Northrop Gruman
Group Solver
Nu Skin
Battelle Memorial Institute
Qualtrics
Glauleos
Lucid Software
The Hartford

**Doctoral Degree (32%):**
Purdue
Imperial College of London
The Ohio State University
Colorado State University
North Carolina - Chapel Hill
Utah State University
Southern Methodist University
University of Missouri
University of Texas - Austin
Duke University
University of California - Santa Cruz

*last three years

**To Apply**

Application forms are available online at http://www.byu.edu/gradstudies/admissions. As part of the application process, applicants must submit three recommendation letters, a letter of intent, official GRE scores, official TOEFL scores for international students, and payment of all university application fees. All applications must be submitted before the February 1 deadline for Fall admission, and students must agree to live according to BYU standards of personal conduct as stated in the Honor Code.

**Financial Assistance**

The department has limited funds to supplement students’ financial resources. All admitted students receive teaching or research assistantships. Some students will receive full-tuition awards.
STAT 535 Applied Linear Models
Analysis of full-rank, model, over-parameterized model, cell means model, unequal subclass frequencies, and missing and fused cells. Estimability issues, diagnostics.

STAT 536 Modern Regression Methods
Weighted least squares, measurement error models, robust regression, nonlinear regression, local regression, generalized additive models, tree-structured regression.

STAT 624 Statistical Computation
Fundamental numerical methods used by statisticians, programming concepts, efficient use of software available for statisticians, simulation studies.

STAT 641 Probability Theory & Mathematical Statistics 1
Axioms of probability; combinatorics; random variables, densities and distributions; expectation; independence; joint distributions; conditional probability; inequalities; derived random variables; generating functions; limit theorems; convergence results.

STAT 642 Probability Theory & Mathematical Statistics 2
Introduction to statistical theory, principles of sufficiency and likelihood; point and interval estimation, maximum likelihood, Bayesian inference, hypothesis testing, Neyman-Pearson lemma, likelihood ratio tests, asymptotic results including delta method, exponential family.

Required Courses

STAT 631 Advanced Experimental Design
Response surface methods; mixture designs; optimal designs; fractions of two-level, three level, and mixed-level factorials; analysis of experiments with complex aliasing; robust parameter designs.

STAT 635 Mixed Model Methods
Fixed effects, random effects, repeated measures; non-independent data, general covariance structures, estimation methods.

STAT 637 Generalized Linear Models
Generalized linear models framework, binary data, polytomous data, log-linear models.

STAT 643 Theory of Linear Models
Random vectors, multivariate normal distribution, quadratic forms distribution, full-rank and non-full-rank linear models, hypothesis testing, random predictors, estimability, Bayesian topics, mixed and/or generalized linear models.

STAT 651 Bayesian Methods
Basic Bayesian inference, conjugate and non-conjugate analyses, Markov Chain Monte Carlo Methods, hierarchical modeling, convergence diagnostics.

STAT 666 Multivariate Statistical Methods
Inference about mean vectors and covariance matrices, multivariate analysis of variance and regression, canonical correlation, discriminate analysis, cluster analysis, principal component analysis, factor analysis.

While not required, we recommend these Undergraduate courses to expand your career opportunities:

SAS programming (STAT 124, 224)
STAT 435 Nonparametric Statistical Methods
STAT 462 Quality Control and Industrial Statistics
STAT 466 Introduction to Reliability
STAT 511 Experimental Design
Research emphases include Bayesian methods, environmental and spatial statistics, reliability of industrial and computing processes, statistical genetics and bioinformatics, mixed models and longitudinal data, data mining, chemometrics, actuarial methods, design and analysis of experiments, and statistical computation. In addition to these general areas, more specific research interest for individual faculty are listed on their web pages.

**Berrett, Candace**, Assistant professor. PhD, Ohio State University, 2010. Spatial and Space-time Statistics; Bayesian Modeling, Categorical Data, Applications to the Environmental Sciences.

**Blades, Natalie J.**, Associate Professor. PhD, Johns Hopkins University, 2003. Infectious Disease Epidemiology; Ordinal Data Models.

**Christensen, William F.**, Professor. PhD, Iowa State University, 1999. Environmental and Spatial Statistics; Multivariate Analysis, Pollution Source Apportionment; Climate and Paleoclimate; Applications of Statistics in Politics and Law.


**Fellingham, Gilbert W.**, Professor. PhD, University of Washington, 1990. Bayesian Nonparametrics; Bayesian Hierarchical Models; Applications in Sports, Human Performance, and Health.

**Grimshaw, Scott D.**, Professor. PhD, Texas A&M University, 1989. Data Science; Process Monitoring.

**Hartman, Brian M.**, Assistant Professor. PhD, Texas A&M University, 2012. Bayesian methods and their applications in actuarial science and risk; Storm damage prediction for electric utilities; Healthcare claims severity modeling; Loss reserving.


**Heiner, Matthew.**, Assistant Professor. PhD, University of California, Santa Cruz, 2019. Hierarchical modeling, Times-series analysis, Bayesian nonparametric methods, Mixture models, Applications in ecology and environmental sciences.

**Page, Garritt L.**, Associate Professor, PhD Rice University, 2008. (Non) Parametric Bayesian Methods; Hierarchical Modeling; Spatial Statistics Mixtures; Statistics in Sports; Statistics in Education.

**Richardson, Robert A.** Assistant Professor, PhD, University of California Santa Cruz 2015. Spatio-temporal data analysis; Bayesian non-parametrics; Stochastic differential equations; Actuarial and financial models.

**Tass, E. Shannon.** Associate Professor, PhD Rice University, 2008. Biostatistics; Statistical Application in Medicine, Health, and Wildlife; Spatial Statistics and Climate.


**White, Philip.** Assistant Professor. PhD, Duke University, 2019. Bayesian Modeling, Spatial and Spatiotemporal Statistics, Functional Data Analysis, Time-series, Applications in Environmental and Climate Science.

**Zabriskie, Brinley.** Assistant Professor. PhD, Utah State University, 2019. Nonparametric Methods, Meta-Analysis, Categorical Data, Biostatistics, Applications in Public Health and Medicine.