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Subject: Statistics Major - Spring 2026 Enrollment Newsletter
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Special edition of the weekly Statistics Major newsletter about Spring 2026 enrollment!

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Important Dates

[View semester Dates & Deadlines here.](#)

- October 15 – Spring schedule of classes publish date
 - Nov 3 – enrollment appointment times assigned to students **throughout this week**
 - Check your MyUW Student Center and WiscMail inbox
 - Nov 10 - Students begin enrolling for spring courses **according to assigned appointment times**
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Advising

- Visit the [Statistics Major website](#) for information on:
 - Scheduling individual advising appointments with an advisor (best for complex questions or unique situations)
 - Attending virtual drop-in advising (best for minimal questions about enrollment)
 - Quick questions?
 - [Send STAT advisors an email!](#) Be sure to include your 10-digit campus ID
 - [Attend drop-in advising on Wednesdays from 1:30PM-2:30PM](#)
 - Note: individual advising appointments can fill up quickly – it's normal for schedules to book 1-2 weeks in advance. Plan ahead!
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Enrollment Holds & Pre-enrollment Checklist

Check your Student Center to check for any holds or tasks that will impact your spring enrollment.

- [Viewing your Holds](#)
 - [Pre-Enrollment Checklist](#)
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Enrollment Advice

- Plan **back up classes**
 - It is likely your first choice of classes may be filled by your enrollment time.
- Check your **enrollment appointment time** in your MyUW Student Center (and WiscMail inbox).
- Enroll as close to your appointment time as possible and select the “add me to waitlist if course is full option.”
 - **Waiting to enroll may prevent you** from getting a seat in your preferred classes.
- Monitor Search & Enroll for **added seats and/or sections**.
 - Spots may open in different sections than the one you are wait listed in, and you can enroll in open seats.
- **Re-validate** your course selection before hitting ‘enroll.’
 - This will help remove previous validation errors.
- **Read your validation errors FULLY;** they give important information as to why you may be prevented from enrolling.
 - Be sure that you enroll in the **correct section**.
- **Do NOT** enroll in courses that have **time conflicts**.
 - If you cannot be in two places at once, you shouldn't enroll in two courses taught at the same time.
- Consult the following **enrollment FAQ pages**:
 - [Statistics courses FAQ](#)

[Email Statistics advisors](#) with your 10-digit campus ID and screenshots if you experience issues.

Priority Enrollment

- Some Statistics courses will give priority enrollment for **declared Statistics students** (along with Math: Math for Statistical Analysis & Risk Management, Actuary Science, Data Science, iSci, & CS majors or Statistics/Data Science Certificates depending on the course).
- Several courses include STAT 303, STAT 333/340, STAT 309, STAT 310, and many electives
- Check out “class notes” on Course Search and Enroll to find out if individual courses have priority enrollment access.
- Example: STAT 303:

Class notes

LEC: Reserved for students declared in Statistics,
Math: Math for Statistical Analysis & Risk
Assessment, Math: Math for Data Science, Statistics
Certificate, or Statistics Doctoral Minor only until
10:00am on November 24th.

Enrollment Restrictions:

- Some classes approved for the Statistics Major may not allow undergrads to enroll in certain semesters. This is entirely up to the department that is offering the class, and we cannot override their restrictions.
- Example: GEN BUS 656 (domain elective)

Requisites

GEN BUS 307, 317 704, 705, 881, ECON 400, 410,
MATH/STAT 310, STAT 333, 340, or declared in the
Business Exchange program

Declared in a Business program or Certificate in
Business prior to Spring 2025 (does not include Cert
in Entrepreneurship, Cert in Consulting, Cert in
Accounting Fundamentals, Cert in Risk Management
and Insurance, or Summer Cert in Business)

- Plan ahead!
- Priority enrollment **does not guarantee** access to major courses but will allow declared **Statistics** students access to enroll before non-declared students.

CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY: It is expected that every student will be present at all classes. Be careful to make sure you are not enrolled in courses that meet at the same time.

[View the L&S Class Attendance Policy.](#)

STAT 340 AND 333

We have noticed a number of students enrolling in both STAT 340 Introduction to Data Modeling II and STAT 333 Applied Regression.

Please note that these are considered equivalent courses and only one or the other

will count towards your Statistics major, not both.

If you have already completed STAT 340 or 333, please do not take the other course.

STATISTICS MAJOR ELECTIVES

In Spring 2026, there are many electives taught by the Statistics Department as well as other departments. You can review what is being offered in Course Search & Enroll and refer to the list in [The Guide](#).

Here are some of the STAT 479 special topics being offered this Spring 2026:

STAT 479: Feat Selec. In Stat Mach Lrng (Section 001)

Feature selection is one of the fundamental challenges in statistical machine learning. This course focuses on both the foundations and methodology surrounding feature selection and also how feature connects to modern challenges in machine learning. A mathematical definition and statistical framework for the feature selection problem is introduced. Standard filter methods, wrapper methods and embedded methods are presented and strengths and weaknesses of each approach are discussed. Connections between feature selection and modern statistics and machine learning topics such as interpretable machine learning, neural network and LLM fine-tuning, high-dimensional statistics, causal inference and graphical models will also be discussed. Throughout the course various data applications and coding exercises will be included using standard statistical software.

STAT 479: Interpretable Machine Learning (Section 003)

Develops the practice and theory of interpretable machine learning, with an emphasis on statistical problem solving through case studies. Topics include competing criteria for interpretability; linear and logistic regression as interpretable baselines; intrinsically interpretable nonlinear models such as Gaussian processes and decision trees; variable importance and Shapley values; connections to veridical data science principles. The course also examines interpretability in artificial intelligence, covering probes, and concept activation, and sparse autoencoder analysis, with implications for model control and AI safety. Throughout, students gain practical experience implementing methods and critically evaluating interpretability outputs.

STAT 479: Intro Causal Inf. In Data Anl. (Section 007)

Provides basic training in causal inference fundamentals and techniques. Topics include a refresher on linear regression and different study designs; randomized treatment assignment and A/B testing framework; the Potential outcomes model; examples of observational studies throughout history; understanding the impacts of confounding variables, covariate balancing, propensity score, and matching methods. R exercises on matching, propensity score estimation, and regression adjustment. Discussions of tools to strengthen causal inference using multiple control groups and other methods. Causal inference under repeated treatments over time: Cox model, g-computation. Difference-in-differences and synthetic control methods for policy evaluation.

F-1/J-1 Visa Students (Enrollment & RCL)

- **[ISS Fall/spring enrollment requirements](#)**: visa-holding students must enroll in a minimum of 12 credits in the Spring term.
 - Online enrollment restrictions apply, see link above for details.
- May 2026 Graduating students:
 - [Reduced Course Load Form Information](#)
 - Graduating this semester? You may enroll in less than 12 credits while maintaining your visa status!
 - Complete the RCL – [Stats/DS Internal Form](#) to qualify.
 - Fill this out after enrolling in Spring courses & applying for Spring graduation; failure to submit the form may impact refunds on courses you drop.
 - Complete the [program completion checklist](#).
 - Provide friends & family with an [invitation letter](#) if they are applying for a tourist visa to visit you.

[Statistics Department International Students FAQ.](#)

Planning to Graduate in Spring 2026?

If you are planning to graduate in May, you MUST apply for graduation after enrolling in your courses. [Follow these Apply for Graduation steps.](#)

For additional information, please visit:

- [Registrar's Office Apply for Graduation webpage!](#)
 - [Statistics Department Graduation Celebration webpage!](#)
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As always, if you have issues preventing you from enrolling at your enrollment time (either technical or personal), please use the general statistics major email – since it is always monitored (advising@stat.wisc.edu) as soon as possible. Include your 10-digit campus ID number and a screenshot of your enrollment error(s).

Cheers, Carmela

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Make an appointment with me through [Starfish](#)

Learning support: <https://learningsupport.wisc.edu/>, <https://cdis.wisc.edu/learning-center/>

Office of Student Assistance & Support: <https://osas.wisc.edu/>