WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Statistics: PhD

Program Handbook

2026-2027

Statistics

Reference this handbook to learn about the unique policies, requirements, procedures, resources, and norms for graduate students in the Statistics Department.

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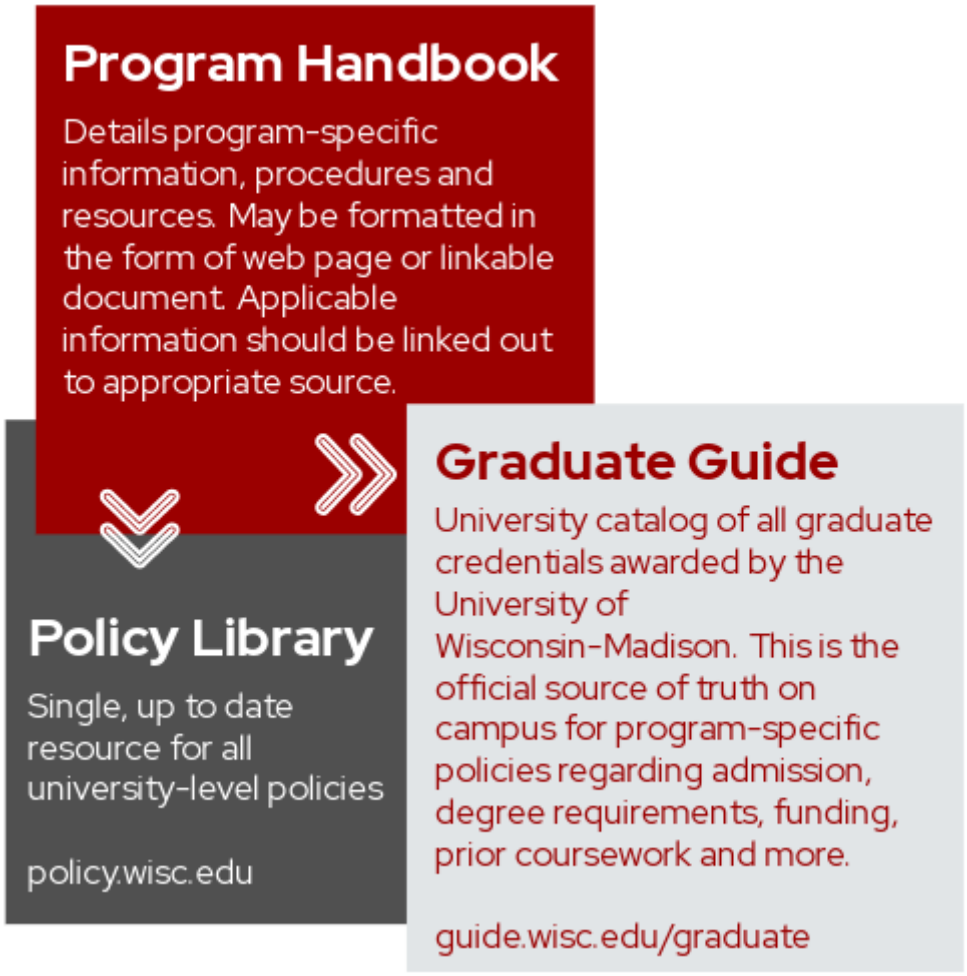
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Navigating Policy and Resources at UW-Madison

This handbook shares important information specific to your degree program. Refer to it as you become familiar with the policies, procedures, requirements, and resources of graduate education at UW-Madison.



Graduate Guide

UW-Madison Policy Library

Resources and information curated by the Graduate School for prospective and current students are found the Graduate School website. The Graduate Student Life website is also maintained by the Graduate School and provides useful information for new graduate students.

Preface

The Department of Statistics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison strives to maintain both instructional and research programs of the highest quality. The PhD program provides excellent training in the modern theory, methods and applications of statistics. The Department believes that its graduates should blend a strong theoretical statistics foundation with practical experience working with challenging statistical problems in diverse areas of application. For this reason, the Department's graduate programs, stressing this relationship of theory and practice, are designed to prepare the graduate equally well for an academic, industrial, or governmental position. The Department would like each graduate student's learning experience in the program to be as productive and rewarding as possible. To help build a successful experience, this handbook has been prepared to provide a variety of information that a graduate student might find useful during their time in the Statistics program. It describes the PhD degree programs and requirements, provides a range of academic information such as course descriptions and criteria for satisfactory progress in the programs, and information on aspects of financial support through teaching, research, and project assistantships. The information in this handbook, while extremely useful, should also be supplemented by individual consultation with faculty and staff, and appropriate departmental committees with regard to advising on academic programs and requirements, financial assistantships, and other matters

Missions and Goals

Statistics PHD Program Mission

The PhD program provides excellent training in the modern theory, methods, and applications of statistics and develops graduates into independent statistical researchers who are prepared for positions in academia, industry, or the government.

Learning Outcomes

1. Articulates research problems, potentials, and limits with respect to the theories, methodologies, and/or applications of statistics.
2. Formulates ideas, concepts, designs, and methods beyond the current boundaries of knowledge within statistics.
3. Creates research that makes a substantive contribution to theoretical and/or applied statistics.

4. Demonstrates breadth in the theories, methodologies, and applications of statistics.
5. Advances contributions of statistics to society.
6. Communicates complex ideas in a clear and understandable manner.
7. Fosters ethical and professional conduct.

Faculty Advisor

Each student will be assigned a faculty advisor in the graduate program in which they are enrolled. Your faculty advisor(s) will be a key source of guidance for your academic development. The Graduate School: Advisor policy provides the definition for an advisor. The "Advising and Mentoring" section provides guidelines for finding, changing, and working with your advisor.

The name and contact information of your faculty advisor is listed on your Student Center on MyUW under "Academic Progress" and then "Advisors."

Graduate School Services

The Graduate School is available for general inquiries. The contact information for the appropriate office is found on the Graduate School's website.

Department and Program Overview

Please view the Graduate Guide for an overview of the PhD department and program learning outcomes.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Department of Statistics strives to create a sense of belonging among all students, faculty, and staff. We foster an inclusive environment by treating other members of the department with esteem and respect. We honor diversity in our department and promote this sense of belonging by working together considerately towards our common goals of teaching, community engagement, and scientific innovation. We are dedicated to serving the UW-Madison statement on diversity and are committed to creating an environment where all feel respected and included. Students who need to report an incident, please view the Graduate Guide Grievances and Appeals policies, or contact the Graduate Program Coordinator.

Faculty Research Interests

Please see the Faculty Research Interests page

Statistics Departmental Staff

A listing of the Statistics Departmental Staff: https://kb.wisc.edu/stat/104849

Statistics Graduate Student Directory

A listing of current graduate students can be found on the departmental website at: https://stat.wisc.edu/phd-student-directory/.

On Campus & In the Community

You will find ways to engage in campus and local community life at: Graduate School: Support for Your Wellbeing.

The Graduate School Office of Access, Engagement and Funding supports students from an array of life experience and backgrounds. This office helps students build a sense of belonging on campus. You can read more about participating in events hosted by the Graduate School at: Graduate School: Community and Belonging.

If you are a student actively involved in leadership and service activities, consider nominating yourself for membership in the following honor society: Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society.

The University has many Professional Development Opportunities and Student Organizations. Please see some links below including the Statistics Graduate Student Association:

- **Graduate School Professional Development**: https://grad.wisc.edu/professional-development/
- **SuccessWorks (aka L&S Career Services):** https://successworks.wisc.edu/
- **Wisconsin Involvement Network (student orgs):** https://win.wisc.edu/
- **Teaching Assistants Association**: https://taa-madison.org/
- **Morgridge Center**: https://morgridge.wisc.edu/
- **Statistics Graduate Student Association**: https://sgsa.stat.wisc.edu/#/

The Graduate School's Current Students Page
grad.wisc.edu/current-students

Computing and IT Resources

College of CAI IT

Course Descriptions

The Guide (https://guide.wisc.edu/courses/stat/), which is the catalog of all UW-Madison programs and courses is a great resource for finding information like course descriptions.

How to Get Involved

As a graduate student at UW-Madison, there are a multitude of opportunities to become involved on campus and in your academic discipline. This involvement often enhances your academic, professional, and personal growth through developing advanced leadership, communication, and collaboration skills. It also provides an opportunity for professional networking.

Getting Started as a Graduate Student

This section guides you through important steps to take as you begin your journey as a graduate student at UW-Madison.

New Graduate Student Checklist

The Graduate School's "New Students" page has useful information, including the new graduate student checklist. The checklist also links to additional resources for new international students, students with disabilities, student veterans, and students with children: Graduate School: New Graduate Student Checklist.

Graduate Student Portal

The Graduate Student Portal allows you to complete actions related to your graduate program as well as other resources. You should become familiar with this site as you navigate graduate education. You can also complete the following through this page:

- Submit add/change/discontinuation requests for any major/named option, doctoral minor or graduate/professional certificate;
- View status of degree completion warrants;
- Discover professional development opportunities;
- Submit payment for completion of your doctoral dissertation; and more.

Advising and Mentoring

Advising relationships are a central part of academia, important to both the experience and development of students and faculty members alike.

The Graduate School's definition of an advisor can be found in the Graduate School: Advisor policy. Your advisor has two main roles:

1. To assist you in acquiring the highest possible level of knowledge and competence in the field, and
2. To chair the committee that will determine whether you have performed at an acceptable level in each of your degree milestones (see the "Degree Requirements" section for further information on building your committee).

Other roles of your advisor may include tracking your progress towards degree completion (note: this may include use of the advisement reports created by Graduate Student Tracking System), assisting with course selection and planning your academic path, and helping you identify possible research mentors, committee members, and research opportunities.

Both the student and advisor are responsible for making their expectations clear to each other. Be sure to discuss this with your advisor.

Finding and Selecting an Advisor

During and after your first year of study, you may continue to meet with your assigned advisor or with any faculty member who agrees to be your academic advisor. Students typically work with a research advisor for at least several months and potentially much longer prior to taking the PhD preliminary examination. Students are strongly encouraged to seek a research advisor shortly after passing the PhD qualifying examination, typically during the second year of the program.

Your advisor should be a faculty member in the program whose expertise and project/research interests match closely with those that you intend to acquire. To learn more about the faculty in your program, consider consulting the following sources:

- Courses and seminars you attend
- Our program website (https://stat.wisc.edu/people-main-faculty/)
- Faculty publications
- Students currently in a prospective advisor's group/lab

Additionally, you may wish to have a discussion with a prospective advisor. Below are some questions to consider in this discussion, though it is not a complete list. You should identify what is most important to you in your graduate training and ask questions accordingly.

Questions to Ask Prospective Advisors

- What thesis projects would be available to me if I were to join your group?
- Would these projects expose me to a variety of different approaches?
- In general, how available will you be to answer questions I might have?
- What is your philosophy regarding the amount of guidance the advisor should provide to a student during preparation of the thesis proposal, literature seminars, thesis writing, etc.?
- What are your expectations for the amount of time I should spend each day/week in your group/lab?
- What regularly scheduled activities (e.g., group meetings, joint group meetings, research clubs) do your group participate in that provide an opportunity to get outside input on my research project and to hear about the work of other students and postdocs?
- Do you encourage your students to attend seminars and journal clubs, including those that may be outside of their narrow field of interest/research?
- Do students in your group/lab have the opportunity to attend professional meetings where they can interact with colleagues/researchers from other institutions?
- Do you include your graduate students in professional activities that will familiarize them with their field of interest/research, such as reviewing manuscripts and meeting with visiting speakers?
- How long do you think it should take me to get my degree?
- What are your former graduate students (if any) doing now?
- What is your general philosophy of graduate training and what goals do you have for your graduate students?

No faculty member is obligated to accept a student's request to serve as advisor, though invitations are often accepted unless the faculty member judges that a different advisor would serve your needs better.

Changing Your Advisor

The Graduate School requires a student to have an advisor. The Graduate School: Advisor policy explains the consequences of not having an advisor as well as the possibility of having a co-advisor. The official record of your advisor is located on the

Student Center on MyUW under "Academic Progress" and then "Advisors." Discuss an advisor change with your prospective advisor to seek the change and connect with your graduate program/manager for the appropriate procedures.

As the advisor-student relationship is one of mutual agreement, it may be terminated by either party. If you decide that you would prefer working with a different advisor, discuss this with your prospective advisor to seek the change.

If you change your advisor, you must notify your Graduate Program Coordinator and follow any related procedures. If you wish to change your assigned advisor, please fill out this online form:
(https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b8VR8i7kx2cuoQt)

Every graduate student must have an advisor or else they may be suspended from graduate study at UW-Madison by the Graduate School. Be sure to follow procedures to re-select a new advisor (described above) prior to finalizing the termination of your current advising relationship.

A Graduate Student Guide to Working with Faculty Advisors

Through this interactive, self-paced micro-course, graduate students learn about the characteristics of functional and dysfunctional relationships with advisors, strategies for communicating effectively and aligning expectations, as well as program grievance processes and Hostile and Intimidating Behavior resources. Completing the micro-course takes about 20 minutes and is optional but encouraged for all graduate students.

Mentoring Networks

The Center for Teaching, Learning and Mentoring is one of several centers of excellence for research mentor training on campus.

In addition to your formal advisor, you are encouraged to develop a broad network of individuals who can provide academic and professional mentorship during and beyond your time as a graduate student.

Giving and Receiving Feedback

Annual assessment on progress for PhD students

The Graduate School requires that PhD students receive annual written assessments on their progress to degree, see UW-1250. We believe that such feedback enhances

graduate student success by fostering transparency, goal-setting, and effective communication. All PhD students are required to fill out a Qualtrics survey, sent via email each spring, in which they write a self-evaluation. This student self-evaluation is forwarded to the student's advisor. For students who have not yet passed the qualifying examination and started their dissertation research, their advisor is their "academic" advisor; otherwise it is their "research" advisor with whom they conduct research. The student advisor then fills out a Qualtrics survey in which they write an assessment about the student's progress to degree. The advisor's assessment is sent to the student. After receiving this written feedback, the student and their advisor should meet to discuss class selection, research progress and future plans. The student should also meet with their advisor in the Fall to discuss course selection.

Students who fail to complete the survey with their self-evaluation for the required annual assessment are deemed to fail to satisfy the Criteria and not to be making satisfactory progress toward the degree, unless an exception is granted by the Director of Graduate Studies.

After passing the qualifying exam, PhD students should select a mentoring committee of 2-4 faculty members, including at least one who is a tenured or tenure-track professor in the Department of Statistics. A research advisor need not be selected by the time of their first mentoring committee meeting, and membership of the committee may change over time.
If the student has not yet completed all course requirements, the student and committee should determine a plan of which courses to take and when, prior to each Fall semester. This plan may be modified. The student and committee are encouraged to meet annually, for the student to receive feedback on their research, and to discuss the timing of their preliminary examination and dissertation defense.

Degree Requirements

Doctoral Degree

All students in the Statistics PhD program are responsible for staying informed of the following requirements to earn the degree. Current degree requirements, policies, milestones, and learning outcomes are maintained in the Graduate Guide. Students should refer to the Statistics PhD Guide page for the official requirements.

Requirements

For all current requirements to earn your degree (e.g., minimum credit requirement, required courses, non-curricular milestones, and learning outcomes/goals, etc.) see your program's page in the Graduate Guide. Navigate to the Graduate Guide, then select "Degrees/Majors," your program's name or the "Named Option" of your program and then "Requirements" from the navigation bar on the right side. You will be taken to a subsection of your program's Guide page, which contains all official requirements for your degree. Similarly, see "Policies" from the navigation bar of your program's page to learn about major-specific policies affecting these requirements (e.g., prior coursework, probation, credits per term allowed, time limits, grievances and appeals, etc.). When you look at the Guide to learn about program requirements, you are viewing the current year's version. To find past versions of program requirements, see the Guide Archive and search for your program and the year you would like to reference.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS (51 CREDITS) Statistics, PhD

Breadth Requirement

The Graduate School: Breadth Requirement in Doctoral Training policy establishes the options and requirements for graduate students pursuing a doctoral degree to meet the breadth requirement.
Add/Change/Discontinue Program Kb
If you click on the top link, you will find FAQ about the minors here:
https://kb.wisc.edu/grad/120525
If you need information about the Distributed minor, it is included in the KB.

For Option B (Distributed minor):

- At least 9 credits in one or more departments other than Statistics.
- At least 3 credits must be from courses numbered 600 or higher.
- Some courses numbered lower than 600 may not be included*.
- Any course covering the same material as existing courses in Statistics cannot be included* except that at most one course cross-listed with Statistics may be included if it is not staffed by the Statistics department. (*Students should check with the Graduate Coordinator if they have questions on whether specific courses can be applied to the Option B minor.)
- Courses must be completed with grades BC or higher with an average of B or higher.

Committee

Doctoral committees advise and evaluate satisfactory progress, administer preliminary and final oral examinations, evaluate a thesis or dissertation, and/or sign a degree warrant. For general guidance from the Graduate School on the role and composition of committees as well as an online tool to determine if your committee meets minimum requirements, see the Graduate School: Committees (Doctoral/Master's/MFA) policy. In addition to this general guidance, this program requires the following of doctoral committees:

Your advisor chairs your committee and provides individualized guidance on how to select committee members.
At least three weeks prior to the final oral examination, the student should contact the graduate coordinator, who will submit a request for a "PhD Final Oral Committee Approval Form" to the Graduate School. Upon review, the Graduate School will return the warrant to the Graduate Coordinator, which will then need to be signed by the Committee and Department Chair following a successful defense. The Statistics Department requires five (5) members to be on the Doctoral Committee.

Please request your warrant with this online form (https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_09tfEfbjV1z0Ee1)

Students are responsible for ensuring that they meet Graduate School requirements and deadlines: https://grad.wisc.edu/academics/doctoral-guide/#deadlines.

Qualifying Exam

The student must pass the PhD Qualifying Examination within six semesters from the first fall semester of registration as a graduate student in the Department. The examination may be attempted a maximum of two times.
Master's degree students who successfully complete the Department's MS Degree Requirements within four semesters and are then admitted to the PhD program must pass the PhD Qualifying Examination within four semesters after entering the PhD program.

- A **single exam** consisting of **4** questions of which the best **3 scores** contribute to the final score.
- There will be one question based on 709, one based on 710, one based on 771 and one based on 849
- The questions for both 771 and 849 may include a computing component
- Exam will be taken in a computer lab with computers provided
- Internet access during the exam will be either blocked or monitored

- Internet access is strictly prohibited during the exam and if found (either during or after the exam) will be considered academic misconduct
- Cell phones are not allowed in the exam
- The passing/failing policy will be the same in that students are allowed one failure but not two

Important note: The Qualifying Exam Committee may choose to write an exam that does not involve the use of a computer but covers exactly the same content/syllabus in the event that a suitable computing lab/environment is not available.

The Qualifying exam changed as of 2025-26 and for the first year (2026 Summer), there may be the option to take a Qualifying Exam under the previous system for students who have already taken the Qualifying Exam under the previous system and not passed. For information on the previous Qualifying Exam structure, refer to the 2024-25 handbook.

Passing or failing this examination will not affect the student's candidacy for the Master's degree.

The Qualifying Examination is generally given during the last week of August.

Syllabus

After a student signs up for the exam please contact the Graduate Coordinator for access to previous test examples if desired.

Preliminary Exam

The student must pass an oral preliminary examination on a topic selected with the approval of the student's advisor. The examination is given by a committee of at least four faculty members appointed by the advisor. Prior to the actual examination, the student must prepare a 15 to 20-page paper outlining the area to be covered. The paper must be written in a clear style with consistent notation. The paper should indicate the scope and depth of the student's dissertation research and should be submitted to the committee at least one week prior to the examination.

The examination typically consists of a 20 to 30-minute talk by the student and questions by the committee. The committee may ask questions during and after the talk. The student may consult notes but is expected to display a mastery of the subject matter as defined by the list of references. The scope of the questions will normally be

directed to the subject matter of the paper but may, by natural extension, include any relevant topic. The Statistics Department requires four (4) members to be on the Preliminary Committee.

At least three weeks before the scheduled Preliminary Examination, students should contact the graduate coordinator, who will request a preliminary warrant from the Graduate School. Upon review, the Graduate School will return the warrant to the Graduate Coordinator for committee members to sign after the examination. Please request your warrant with this online form. (https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_09tfEfbjV1z0Ee1)

Dissertation and Final Oral Exam/Defense

Topic

Your advisor can provide guidance on selecting your dissertation topic. If you find your topic and/or mentoring needs no longer align with your advisor, see "Advising and Mentoring" section on how to change advisors. Note that your committee composition may or may not need to change as well in this scenario, depending upon your new advisor's guidance.

The primary requirement for the PhD degree is the completion of a significant body of original research and the presentation of this research in a dissertation. The research is carried out under the guidance of a member or members of the Department. The candidate must defend the dissertation in a final oral examination.

At least three weeks prior to the final oral examination, the student should contact the graduate coordinator, who will submit a request for a "PhD Final Oral Committee Approval Form" to the Graduate School. Upon review, the Graduate School will return the warrant to the Graduate Coordinator, which will then need to be signed by the Committee and Department Chair following a successful defense. The Statistics Department requires five (5) members to be on the Doctoral Committee.

Please request your warrant with this online form (https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_09tfEfbjV1z0Ee1)

Students are responsible for ensuring that they meet Graduate School requirements and deadlines: https://grad.wisc.edu/academics/doctoral-guide/#requirements.

Seminars

Students are expected to attend seminars from the Statistics Department (Thursdays, 1:00pm). Emails will be sent out with information on the speaker, title and abstract about a week before the event.

Typical Progression

Year 1: In your first year, you will complete four or five of the core classes. Success in the program, and especially in Year 1, depends critically on your comfort and fluency with certain mathematical concepts. In particular, your first-year courses all assume proficiency with mathematical proofs, single and multivariable differential and integral calculus, linear algebra, and elements of real analysis. For that reason, we *strongly recommend* that you take MATH 521 (which counts as a 3-unit elective) in Fall of Year 1, especially if you have not previously taken a course in mathematical analysis as preparation for 710.

A typical first year schedule would be:

Fall: STAT/MATH 709 + STAT 849 + 1 elective (MATH 521 highly recommended but not strictly required)
Spring: STAT/MATH 710 + STAT 771 + 1 elective

Year 2: In your second year, you would ideally complete STAT 998 and five other courses. These may be a combination of electives within the Statistics department and courses outside the department needed to satisfy the breadth requirement.

Year 3: If you do not complete STAT 998 in your second year, you will take it in your third year. Otherwise, you can continue to take courses or enroll in research credit.

Doctoral Degree Checklist: Timeline and Deadlines

The Graduate School maintains a list of steps to complete your doctoral degree, including deadlines and important things to know as you progress toward graduation.

PhD students in their final semester will need to contact the Graduate Coordinator to request their graduation warrant (https://grad.wisc.edu/documents/warrants/). Online Warrant request form here:
https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_09tfEfbjV1z0Ee1
All graduating students or those leaving the department before completing their degree are asked to fill out the departmental exit forms:
https://stat.wisc.edu/documents/statistics-ms-phd-exit-form/ and
https://stat.wisc.edu/documents/statistics-department-graduate-survey/

PhD Degree Requirements – Biostatistics Option

Course Requirements (51 CREDITS) Statistics, PhD: Biostatistics

The Biostatistics Degree Option (BDO) is a collaborative program with both the Department of Statistics and Biostatistics and Medical Informatics. Students pursue course work in theory, methodology, and application of statistics.

PhD students are required to satisfy the general requirements for their degree in Statistics with additional coursework noted below.

Courses

Seven Required Statistic Courses (23 credits) – cover core topics in probability, mathematical statistics, and statistical methodology, including distribution theory, asymptotic analysis, theory of estimation and testing, general regression techniques, and also specialized statistical methods for clinical studies.

Collaborative Research Experience

This unique aspect of the Biostatistics Option program provides the student with experience in interdisciplinary collaborative research under the supervision of a faculty trainer. Students can accomplish this requirement by rotating through directed study/research credits with various faculty trainers.

- Lab rotations should be completed during the first three years of the program
- Lab rotations need to be established at the beginning of the semester, plan accordingly!
- Students must give a presentation of their research at the end of the same semester

Qualifying Exam

Students take their qualifying exam in August after completing their 1st year in the Statistics program. See above section for more information.

Preliminary Exam

After the selection of a thesis advisor, the student will prepare a short paper and present their thesis plans to a faculty committee. See above section for more information.

Seminars

Students are expected to attend seminars from the Statistics Department (Thursday, 1:00pm), the BMI Department (Friday, 12:00pm)

Final Exam

A final oral thesis presentation on novel developments in biostatistics will be presented to the thesis committee. See above section for more information.

Breadth Requirement

For the Biostatistics option student, the breadth requirement is satisfied by:
(1) the biological sciences course and
(2) the collaborative research experience.

Other: Rules governing courses and timing, operation, and requirements of the qualifying, preliminary, and final exams are as stated in the traditional PhD program above, as are the criteria for satisfactory progress. Issues specific to the Biostatistics Option are governed by the trainers within the two sponsoring departments.

MS Exam

PhD students interested in taking the MS exam should follow the guidelines found on page 7 in the MS Student Handbook here: https://stat.wisc.edu/graduate-admissions/ms-program/#program-handbook-regulations

Academic Policies

Enrollment Requirements

The Graduate School maintains the official academic and administrative policies relevant to graduate students.

The Graduate School's Academics page provides important information related to academic matters, policies and academic success. The following links have important information relevant to courses and enrollment that is important for you to be aware of:

- Enrollment Requirements
- Late Enrollment, Course Change, or Drop
- Other Types of Courses
- Cancel or Withdraw Enrollment
- Continuous Enrollment Requirement for Dissertators

Academic Exception Petitions

Academic exceptions are considered on an individual case by case basis and should not be considered a precedent. Deviations from normal progress are highly discouraged, but the program recognizes that there are in some cases extenuating academic and personal circumstances. Petitions for course exceptions/substitutions or exceptions to the Satisfactory Progress Expectations (academic or conduct) shall be directed to the Director of Graduate Studies or relevant committee chair (example Curriculum Chair). The following procedures apply to all petitions:

1. The specific requirement/rule/expectation pertinent to the petition must be identified.
2. The student's academic advisor must provide written support for the petition.
3. All course work substitutions and equivalencies will be decided by appropriate area-group faculty or curriculum chair.

More generally, the Director of Graduate Studies, in consultation with the student's advisor, may grant extensions to normal progress requirements for students who face circumstances (similar to tenure extensions) as noted in university regulations, this includes childbirth, adoption, significant responsibilities with respect to elder or dependent care obligations, disability or chronic illness, or circumstances beyond one's personal control. Where warranted, the petition should provide good evidence of plans and ability to return to conformance with the standard and to acceptably complete the program. The normal extension will be one semester; anything beyond this will be granted only in the event of highly extraordinary circumstances. Extensions will be granted formally with a note of explanation to be placed in the student's file.

Progress Towards Your Degree

The Graduate School provides relevant information you should be aware of as you progress towards your degree. Students must follow Graduate School policies, program-specific policies and if applicable, employment policies. Programs are required to provide doctoral students with annual written feedback on progress toward the degree. The following sections highlight two areas related to courses and enrollment.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

The Graduate School: Satisfactory Progress policy defines what is expected of students to make satisfactory progress toward degree completion. Probation or dismissal from the Graduate School can impact your academic standing, financial aid or funding (consult your sources of funding as applicable). In addition to the Graduate School's monitoring of satisfactory academic progress, this program regularly reviews the satisfactory academic progress of its students, defined as follows.

Your continuation as a graduate student at UW-Madison is at the discretion of your program, the Graduate School, and your faculty advisor. Any student may be placed on probation or dismissed from the Graduate School for not maintaining satisfactory academic progress, and this can impact your academic standing. Our program has its own definition of satisfactory academic progress and related procedures that supplement Graduate School policy, as described in this section: **Criteria for satisfactory progress for graduate students in the Department of Statistics**

Grievances and Appeals

Please see the Graduate School's Grievances and Appeals page.

Personal Conduct Expectations

Students should avoid even an appearance of improper behavior or lack of ethical standards while in Graduate School at UW-Madison, in all professional settings, and in their personal lives. Students should conduct themselves according to the standards expected of members of the profession to which the student aspires. Concerns about infractions of Professional Conduct may be effectively handled informally between the instructor/advisor and the student. If a resolution is not achieved, a graduate program representative may be included in the discussion. Separate and apart from a violation of Professional Conduct, a student may face University disciplinary action with regard to the same action. Students are responsible for reading the information here as well as the information published on all the relevant web sites. Lack of knowledge of this information does not excuse any infraction.

1. **Professional Ethics**: Students shall show respect for a diversity of opinions, perspectives and cultures; accurately represent their work and acknowledge the contributions of others; participate in and commit to related opportunities; aim to gain knowledge and contribute to the knowledge base of others; understand the UW

Student Code of Conduct; represent their profession and the program; and strive to incorporate and practice disciplinary ideals in their daily lives. Resumes/CVs must reflect accurate information.

2. **Honesty and Integrity**: Students shall demonstrate honesty and integrity as shown by their challenging of themselves in academic pursuits; honesty and ethics in research and IRB applications—including honesty in interpretation of data, commitment to an unbiased interpretation of academic and professional endeavors; and the need to document research activities, protect subject/client confidentiality and HIPAA regulations. Students shall follow-through and pull their weight in group activities and understand where collaboration among students is or is not allowed; not plagiarize others or past work (self-plagiarism), cheat, or purposefully undermine the work of others; and avoid conflicts of interest for the duration of their time in the program. As a professional, honesty and integrity also extends to personal behavior in life outside of the academic setting by realizing that students are representatives of the program, UW-Madison, and the profession as a whole.

3. **Interpersonal and Workplace Relationships**: Students shall interact with peers, faculty, staff and those they encounter in their professional capacity in a manner that is respectful, considerate, and professional. This includes and is not limited to attending all scheduled meetings, honoring agreed upon work schedules, being on-time and prepared for work/meetings, contributing collaboratively to the team, keeping the lines of communication open, offering prompt response to inquiries, and employing respectful use of available equipment/technology/resources. Chronic or unexplained absences are unprofessional in the workplace and could be grounds for termination or removal of funding. To facilitate the free and open exchange of ideas, any criticism shall be offered in a constructive manner, and the right of others to hold different opinions shall be respected.

4. **Commitment to Learning**: Students are expected to meet their educational responsibilities at all times. Be actively prepared for class and be ready for questions and answers. Be on time for every class and always show courtesy during class or if you have to leave class early. If possible, students should notify the instructor at least one day in advance of a planned absence. Students who are unable to attend class are responsible for finding out what occurred that day and should not expect

instructors to give them individual instruction. Recognizing that the pursuit of knowledge is a continuous process, students shall show commitment to learning by persevering despite adversity and seeking guidance in order to adapt to change. Students shall strive for academic excellence and pursue and incorporate all critique, both positive and negative, in the acquisition of knowledge in order to understand and respect the community in which they work.

5. **Professional Appearance**: Students shall convey a positive, professional appearance in order to represent the program in a dignified manner. Appearance includes a person's dress, hygiene, and appropriate etiquette/protocols for the environment (including safety protocols and protective clothing in environments that require them).

This graduate program, the Graduate School, and the Division of Student Life all uphold the UW-System policies and procedures in place for academic and non-academic misconduct. In addition, graduate students are held to the same standards of responsible conduct of research as faculty and staff. Furthermore, unprofessional behavior towards clients/subjects, faculty, staff, peers and public are significant issues in the evaluation and promotion of students. In turn, we hold expectations for the highest level of academic integrity and expect professional, ethical, and respectful conduct in all interactions. Students may be disciplined or dismissed from the graduate program for misconduct or disregard for professional conduct expectations regardless of their academic standing in the program. Separate and apart from a violation of Professional Conduct, a student may face University disciplinary action with regard to the same action. Students are responsible for reading the information here as well as the information published on all the relevant web sites. Lack of knowledge of this information does not excuse any infraction.

Professional Conduct

The Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards maintains detailed guidance on student rights and responsibilities related to learning in a community that is safe and fosters integrity and accountability. You are responsible for keeping aware of their policies and procedures.

Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct is governed by state law, UW System Administration Code Chapter 14. For further information on this law, what constitutes academic misconduct, and procedures related to academic misconduct, see:

Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards

- Academic Misconduct Definition
- Student Resources for Academic Integrity
- Academic Misconduct Process at UW-Madison UWS Chapter 14

University of Wisconsin System (UWS): Chapter 14: Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures

Non-Academic Misconduct

Non-academic misconduct is governed by state law, UW System Administration Code Chapters 17 and 18. For further information on these laws, what constitutes non-academic misconduct, and procedures related to non-academic misconduct, see:

Office for Student Conduct and Community Standards: Student Nonacademic Disciplinary Procedures

University of Wisconsin System (UWS)

- Chapter 17: Student Non-Academic Disciplinary Procedures
- Chapter 18: Conduct on University Lands

Research Misconduct

Trust in the accuracy and veracity of the scholarly record are fundamental to science. When that record is tainted, whole fields of study can be set back or questioned. Moreover, when scientists have been found to engage in misconduct, partners and the public lose faith in the ability of all scientists to address society's grand challenges.

The **Faculty Legislation II-314: Misconduct in Scholarly Research** policy defines research misconduct. The policy applies to all those involved in the research process including graduate students. The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research's Research Misconduct page is another resource that provides the definitions, applicability and confidentiality in research misconduct proceedings.

If you have questions or concerns about research misconduct or integrity, this can be discussed confidentially with the Research Integrity Officer (rio@research.wisc.edu).

Hostile and Intimidating Behavior (Bullying)

Hostile and intimidating behavior (HIB), sometimes referred to as "bullying," is prohibited by university policy applicable to faculty, academic staff, and university staff. Refer to the Graduate School's Reporting Incidents page for further definition, policy, and procedures. Students who are employees and feel they have been subject to HIB in the workplace are encouraged to review the Hostile and Intimidating Behavior website for information about the informal and formal approaches and investigations to take in addressing hostile and intimidating behavior.

Reporting Incidents (Harassment, Discrimination and Bias, Hostile and Intimidating Behavior, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Dating and Domestic Violence, and Stalking)

The Graduate School's page (Reporting Incidents) directs you to the appropriate links for reporting incidents.

Other important resources on campus include:

- Office of Student Assistance and Support – Share a Concern (this page allows you to share a general concern and learn how to report other incidents on campus)
- Office of Compliance
- Sexual Misconduct Resource and Response Program

As noted above in Personal Conduct Expectations section, students who feel they have been subject to hostile and/or intimidating behavior (i.e., bullying) are encouraged to review the informal and formal options for addressing this behavior (including filing complaints when desired) at: Human Resources Hostile and Intimidating Behavior – Addressing HIB.

Funding Information and Resources

"Funding" is a term used to describe university employment or support to cover some or all of your costs of graduate education. It varies in kind, amount, and level of guarantee.

The Graduate School maintains policies related to graduate student funding/employment:

Enrollment Requirements for Graduate Assistants

policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1208

Eligibility for Summer RA, TA, PA, and LSA Appointments
policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-5089

Guaranteed Funding

TA/PA/RA Funding in Statistics Department

Many students in Statistics are funded through the department. Information specific to your funding can be found in your offer letter and TA appointment contract. For information on TA expectations please see the Statistics department KnowledgeBase at https://kb.wisc.edu/stat/internal/104851. Students funded outside of Statistics should contact that department for funding information.

Finding Funding Without a Guaranteed Appointment

Campus-Wide and External Sources

To help you find resources to pay for costs related to graduate education, the Graduate School provides a comprehensive overview of the funding process on campus as well as descriptions of the types of funding available, sources of funding, minimum stipend rates and benefits, and links to applicable human resources policies (e.g. GAPP) at the Funding and Awards page.

See the Graduate School's Fellowships page, including the Funding Forward program from the Graduate School that equips and empowers graduate students to compete for external fellowships, for information and resources about fellowships (another source of financial support for graduate study).

Additional Policies and Resources

Residence for Tuition Purposes

Employee Disability Resources

Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (GAPP)

Professional Development

When you participate in professional development, you build skills needed to succeed academically and thrive in your career. The following are professional development activities that we recommend for your consideration. Required professional development will be detailed in "Degree Requirements" section above.

On Campus

The Graduate School develops and curates a wide variety of resources for professional development as well as programming to help you explore careers, prepare for a job search, build your network and learn from alumni, manage projects, communicate about your research, and much more. All of this can be found at: Graduate School's Professional Development.

Individual Development Plan (IDP)

This tool helps you assess your skills, set goals, and create a plan with recommended activities on campus.

Through clear guidance and helpful resources, you'll learn how an IDP helps you set goals, stay focused, and make steady progress through graduate school and beyond, using a simple approach: **assess, write, discuss, implement, and revise.**

The micro-course, *Creating your Individual Development Plan,* is a great way to start your IDP today.

DiscoverPD

DiscoverPD helps master's and doctoral students at UW-Madison advance their academic and professional goals with customized recommendations based on a skills self-assessment. The 400+ professional development recommendations available in the DiscoverPD database are available in a range of formats to best meet your diverse needs, including in-person, virtual, asynchronous, and synchronous opportunities. You can also access DiscoverPD through your Graduate Student Portal.

Free Career- and Skill-Building Memberships

UW-Madison graduate students and postdocs have access to a variety of free memberships and online tools to build their skills, explore career options, and more. For example:

- Beyond Graduate School is a one-of-a-kind career platform for **master's students** to explore career options and learn proven job search strategies. Visit

Beyond Graduate School, select University of Wisconsin-Madison, and enter your institutional login information.
- Beyond the Professoriate's Career Training Platform helps **PhD students and postdocs** successfully transition into academic or nonacademic careers. Visit Beyond the Professoriate, select University of Wisconsin-Madison, and enter your institutional login information.
- LinkedIn Learning offers a full library of self-study courses available anytime, covering topics such as software, programming, productivity, design, project management, public speaking, and more. Different courses are geared toward all levels of experience from beginner to expert and can be completed at each learner's own pace.

Delta Program in Research, Teaching, and Learning

Teaching and mentoring related professional development and training is offered by many collaborators across campus, including the Graduate School; the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Mentoring; WISCIENCE, and others.

The Delta Program in Research, Teaching, and Learning in the Graduate School engages graduate students and postdocs in professional development in teaching, mentoring, and outreach. Through Delta's certificate, courses, seminars, internship program, and workshops, participants gain skills in evidence-based teaching and mentoring, necessary to become effective and inclusive researchers, educators, and mentors across the nation and world. Highlights include:

- Research Mentor Learning Communities, based on a nationally-recognized curriculum, give graduate students and postdocs concrete tools to support a successful mentor-mentee relationship.
- The Certificate in Higher Education Teaching and Learning, which represents commitment to excellence as an educator and prepares leaders who promote inclusive and effective educational experiences at the college level.
- Impactful Delta courses, including:
    - Teaching in Science and Engineering: The College Classroom
    - Active Learning Laboratory
    - Expeditions in Evidence-Based Teaching and Learning
    - Improv to Improve Science Communication and Teaching.

Sign up for Delta's mailing list or read *GradConnections Weekly* to learn about opportunities as soon as they are announced.

GradConnections

The Graduate School communicates professional development opportunities through an e-newsletter, *GradConnections*, that all graduate students receive at their wisc.edu email. Graduate students in traditional graduate degree programs receive the newsletter weekly during the academic year and every other week in the summer. Graduate students in online degree programs receive the newsletter twice per semester during the academic year and once during the summer.

Additional Resources

There are several other resources available to graduate students throughout campus. The Graduate Guide's Student Affairs page lists many programs and campus units that serve students. This handbook would like to highlight the following offices.

McBurney Disability Resource Center

The McBurney Disability Resource Center provides support for disability-related student accommodations. This office can help you explore disability-related accommodations and answer questions or concerns about accommodations.

Office of Student Assistance and Support (OSAS)

The Office of Student Assistance and Support connects you with the support you need. The office's website allows you to fill out a form to connect with staff to help you find options and resources. The website also connects you to resources related to food access, housing and financial support, and other common inquiries.

University Health Services (UHS)

University Health Services (UHS) provides high-quality medical and prevention services, including confidential, no-cost care mental health care for students. This includes access to individual counseling, group counseling and well workshops, and more. Students also have access to UWill and Let's Talk.

UWill

All UW students have access to UWill, a free, flexible virtual counseling service. This is accessible 24/7 and does not require an appointment to access. Typically, appointments are available within 24 hours.

Let's Talk

Let's Talk provides free, confidential consultations with a UHS staff member. These are available in-person or virtually. See the schedule on website for times and locations.