



Florida State University Department of Statistics

2026 Orientation





Schedule



Monday, August 17th, 9:30am - 3:45pm

Department Orientation

- Graduate programs
- People to know
- Duties and responsibilities
- Program of Study
- Discussion session with graduate students
- Lunch provided



Graduate Programs



- MS
 - Applied Statistics
 - Biostatistics
 - Mathematical Statistics
 - **Statistical Data Science**
 - Thesis Option
- PhD
 - Statistics
 - Biostatistics



MS



MS Degrees

- Specific course requirements
- 36 credits (12 courses)
 - Exception: The MS in Statistical Data Science requires 32 credit hours.
 - 6 credits (2 Courses) can be replaced by a Masters thesis
- The minimum cumulative GPA in all courses is 3.0.
- See Graduate Handbook
 - <https://stat.fsu.edu/graduate/departments-statistics-graduate-student-handbook>
- Common courses in Semester I:
STA5066, STA 5106, STA 5166, STA 5326

MS in Applied Statistics

Course Number	Course Name
STA 5106	Computational Methods in Statistics I
STA 5207	Applied Regression Methods
STA 5326	Distribution Theory and Inference
STA 5327	Statistical Inference
STA 5334	Limit Theory of Statistics
At least two of the following courses:	
STA 5066	Data Management and Analysis with SAS
STA 5067	Advanced Data Management and Analysis with SAS
STA 5507	Applied Nonparametric Statistics
STA 5635	Applied Machine Learning
STA 5707	Applied Multivariate Analysis
STA 5856	Time Series and Forecasting Methods

Required courses

Year 1		Year 2	
Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
STA 5207	STA 5106	Required	Required
STA 5326	STA 5327	Elective	Elective
STA 5334	Elective	Elective	Elective

Typical course program

MS in Mathematical Statistics

Course Number	Course Name
STA 5106	Computational Methods in Statistics
STA 5107	Statistics in Applications I
STA 5207	Applied Regression Methods
STA 5208	Linear Statistical Models
STA 5326	Distribution Theory and Inference
STA 5327	Statistical Inference
STA 5334	Limit Theory of Statistics
STA 6346	Advanced Probability and Inference I
STA 6448	Advanced Probability and Inference II
At least three of the following courses:	
STA 5507	Applied Nonparametric Statistics
STA 5707	Applied Multivariate Analysis
STA 5721	High-Dimensional Statistics
STA 5856	Time Series and Forecasting Methods
STA 6709	Spatial Statistics

Required courses

Year 1		Year 2	
Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
STA 5207	STA 5208	STA 6346	STA 6448
STA 5326	STA 5327	STA 5107	Elective
STA 5334	STA 5106	Elective	Elective

Typical course program

MS in Statistical Data Science

STA 5207	Applied Regression Methods
STA 5208	Linear Statistical Models
STA 5066	Data Management and Analysis with SAS
STA 5067	Advanced Data Management and Analysis with SAS
STA 5106	Computational Methods in statistics I
STA 5856	Time Series and Forecasting Methods
STA 5635	Applied Machine Learning
STA 5910	Supervised Research: Professional Skills Seminar
STA 5939	Introduction to Statistical Consulting (Capstone project)

Required courses

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3
STA 5207	STA 5208	STA 5856
STA 5066	STA 5067	STA 5939
STA 5910 (2 cr)	STA 5106	STA 5635
Elective (STA 5934)	Elective	

Typical course program

MS in Biostatistics

Course Number	Course Name
STA 5198	Epidemiology for Statisticians
STA 5207	Applied Regression Methods
STA 5208	Linear Statistical Models
STA 5244	Fundamentals of Clinical Trials
STA 5326	Distribution Theory and Inference
STA 5327	Statistical Inference
STA 5334	Limit Theory of Statistics
At least one of the following courses:	
STA 5066	Data Management and Analysis with SAS
STA 5179	Applied Survival Analysis
STA 5197	Longitudinal Analysis

Required courses

Year 1		Year 2	
Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
STA 5207	STA 5208	STA 5244	Elective
STA 5326	STA 5327	Elective	Elective
STA 5334	STA 5198	Elective	Elective

Typical course program



Ph.D.



Course requirements

- All coursework must be taken for letter grade, C- or better
 - Exception: interdisciplinary option for Statistics PhD
 - One of these may be DIS (Directed Individual Study)
 - At least one course each semester (in 4th year, at least two courses total in fall / spring)
- Ten specific, required courses must have minimum grade of B-
- GPA at least 3.0
- See Graduate Student Handbook



Ph.D.



Requirements

- Required course: STA 5910 “Faculty Research Presentations”
- Comprehensive exam
- Entrance to the PhD program
- Qualifying exam
- Dissertation defense



Ph.D.



Comprehensive exam

- Offered each year at the end of August and early January
- Topics from first year courses
- Students expected to take it in Fall of the second year
- Should take it in second year
- Lose funding if not passed by end of second year of study



Ph.D.



Entrance to the PhD program

- Find an advisor
- Apply for the PhD program at the beginning of the spring semester of the second year, to a committee consisting of:
 - the Graduate Student Admissions Committee
 - the chair of the TA Supervision and Duty Assignments Committee
 - the Graduate Student Director
- Possible decisions:
 - Admit to the PhD program and continue existing funding
 - Admit to the PhD program and discontinue existing funding
 - Admit to the PhD program and award department funding
 - Deny admission to the PhD program
- If denied admission, the student leaves the department, generally with an MS provided the MS requirements are met
- If admitted, student starts working with the advisor through a DIS



Ph.D.



Qualifying exam

- Must be admitted entrance to PhD
- Select the PhD committee members with the advisor
 - Four members, of which one is the advisor and one is an external member
 - Two other members from the department, of which one should have tenure
- Write the prospectus manuscript
 - Literature review
 - Preliminary results
 - Research plan for dissertation
- Prospectus defense
 - 50-minute presentation in front of the committee
 - Closed door committee review
- Expected to pass by the end of third year
- Only two attempts allowed



Ph.D.



A student passing the QE in fall / spring / summer may not defend their dissertation until the following fall / spring / summer or later.

Dissertation defense

- Copy to committee at least four weeks prior to defense
- 50-minute department seminar
- Closed door committee review



Ph.D.



Timeline

- Required coursework: first two years
- Comprehensive exam: by the end of second year
- Qualifying exam: by the end of 3rd year
- Dissertation defense: by the end of 5th year

Ph.D. in Statistics

Course Number	Course Name
STA 5106	Computational Methods in Statistics
STA 5107	Statistics in Applications I
STA 5207	Applied Regression Methods
STA 5208	Linear Statistical Models
STA 5326	Distribution Theory and Inference
STA 5327	Statistical Inference
STA 5334	Limit Theory of Statistics
STA 6346	Advanced Probability and Inference I
STA 6448	Advanced Probability and Inference II
At least three of the following courses:	
STA 5507	Applied Nonparametric Statistics
STA 5707	Applied Multivariate Analysis
STA 5721	High-Dimensional Statistics
STA 5856	Time Series and Forecasting Methods
STA 6709	Spatial Statistics

Required courses

Ph.D. in Biostatistics

Course Number	Course Name
STA 5179	Applied Survival Analysis
STA 5197	Longitudinal Data Analysis
STA 5198	Epidemiology for Statisticians
STA 5207	Applied Regression Methods
STA 5208	Linear Statistical Models
STA 5244	Fundamentals of Clinical Trials
STA 5326	Distribution Theory
STA 5327	Statistical Inference
STA 5334	Limit Theory of Statistics
STA 6346	Advanced Probability and Inference I
STA 6448	Advanced Probability and Inference II

Required courses



Graduate Programs



Good references:

- Office of Graduate Studies
 - FSU Graduate Handbook
 - Workshops
 - Insurance
 - Dissertations
 - Much more ...
- Statistics Department Graduate Handbook
- Supervisory Committee
- Graduate director website:

<http://statgraddirectorfsu.blogspot.com/>



People to Know



- Dr. Eric Chicken
 - Department chair
 - Determines continuance in program
- Me (Dr. Adrian Barbu)
 - Graduate student director
 - Monitor student progress toward degree
 - Handle questions and complaints



People to Know



- Dr. Justin Shows
 - Large lecture coordinator
 - Runs the consulting center
- Professor Radha Bose
 - Large lecture guru
 - Assigns TA and grader duties
- Your (temporary) advisor



People to Know



- Mr. James Stricherz
 - Computer system manager and developer
 - Email accounts, software
- Ms. Pamela McGhee
 - Office administrator
- Ms. Natalie Webster
 - Course related matters
- Ms. Maryia Kushchava
 - Administrative support assistant



Duties and Responsibilities



As a student

- Earn a degree in a timely manner
 - Attend all classes
 - 9 – 12 credits each term
 - 3.0 cumulative GPA
 - B- or better in required courses
- Communicate with advisor
- Program of study (due each April)
- Participate in annual review (due each April)



Duties and Responsibilities



As an employee

- RA
- TA
 - Instructor
 - Recitation instructor
 - Grader
 - Department support
- Statistical Consulting Center (SCC)



Duties and Responsibilities



Research assistant (RA)

- Assigned to a single faculty member
- Funded by the faculty member's grant
- Assist with this faculty member's research



Duties and Responsibilities



Instructors / Recitation instructors

- University standards for TAs (OGS)
- Attend PIE first (scheduled)
- Take Teaching in the Discipline course
- Pass English competency exam (SPEAK)
 - SPEAK test for International TAs
 - Once every semester
- Have minimum number of hours in the discipline



Duties and Responsibilities



Graders

- Grade for 2 or more classes
 - Faculty led courses
 - Graders do not work for other students
- Proctor exams for large lectures
- Other duties as specified by instructor
- Talk with instructor or coordinator, learn expectations



Duties and Responsibilities



Tutors

- Up to 20 hours a week in Strozier help center
- Assist with low level courses
 - STA 1013 – low math background students
 - STA 2023 – business students
 - STA 2122 – general student population
 - STA 2171 – biology students
 - STA 3032 – technical students



Duties and Responsibilities



Statistical Consulting Center (SCC)

- Assist university members outside the department with statistical issues
 - Design of experiments
 - Software
 - Data analysis
 - etc.
- Expectations and hours determined by Dr. Shows



Duties and Responsibilities



Program in Interdisciplinary Computing (PIC)

- Support of PIC
- Assisting students
 - Email
 - Chat
 - In-person
- ...



Duties and Responsibilities



TA Support

- Overseen by Dr. Shows
- Database building (test banks, practice tests, homework)
- Online course development



Duties and Responsibilities



Pay

- Stipend paid every two weeks
- 39 weeks each year (19.5 pay periods)
- Three pay levels
 - Instructors
 - Recitation instructors and SCC
 - Everyone else
- RA pay is set by the faculty member
- Tuition waiver (you pay some fees)
- Limited summer support



QUESTIONS?