

DEPARTMENT OF BIostatISTICS

Joseph E. Cavanaugh, Ph.D., Department Head



BIostatISTICS is a rapidly growing field that offers an exciting way to combine mathematical, statistical, and biological interests to contribute to important research that improves lives. Iowa's biostatistics programs provide a balance of statistical theory and application. The M.S. prepares students to implement statistical analyses for biomedical and public health programs and communicate key statistical principles. The M.P.H. in Quantitative Methods provides substantive training in Biostatistics, designed to train public health professionals who can provide leadership in the analysis of public health data and the design of studies for public health investigations. The Ph.D. emphasizes developing and applying statistical methodology to solve important biological and public health problems.

Our 16 primary faculty are active researchers who conduct collaborative and methodological investigations, often in conjunction with researchers in the other campus health sciences colleges and the large University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics teaching hospital.

The faculty are committed to providing quality education in a supportive environment with a small student to faculty ratio. Students are guided by faculty members whose research interests include computer intensive statistics, Bayesian statistics, design and analysis of clinical trials, longitudinal data analysis, survival analysis, spatial modeling, infectious disease modeling, time series, model selection, statistical learning, network analysis, and public health statistics.

Our department maintains several centers that provide students with training and research opportunities, including the Biostatistics Consulting Center, Center for Public Health Statistics, and Clinical Trials Statistical and Data Management Center. Computer laboratories, both Windows and Linux, are available to our students.

Degrees Offered

- M.S. Biostatistics
- Ph.D. Biostatistics
- M.P.H. Quantitative Methods
- B.S. and M.P.H. in Quantitative Methods

Financial Support

Some biostatistics students receive financial aid by working 10-20 hours per week as graduate assistants. Research assistantships are available for work in the Biostatistics Consulting Center or on specific research projects. Some teaching assistantships are available. Assistantships provide substantial stipends, tuition at in-state student rates, tuition scholarships, and contributions to a health care plan. No special form requesting such support is required with the application materials. Biostatistics admission decisions typically include an offer of financial support.



www.public-health.uiowa.edu/biostat

Career Opportunities

A variety of well-paying career opportunities are available to those with biostatistics degrees. Our graduates are in demand and have little difficulty finding positions. Typical positions are with pharmaceutical, health care, and research companies and institutions; in consulting firms; and with universities and government agencies.

Admission Requirements

A bachelor's degree with a minimum GPA of 3.00 is required. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required, with a minimum recommended combined verbal and quantitative score of 305; however, the average combined GRE score for new students in recent years has been 315 and higher.

Prerequisites for admission are training in single variable and multi-variable differential and integral calculus and vector algebra, and ability to program in at least one computer language. For the Ph.D. program, completion of a master's degree in statistics or biostatistics is generally required.

International applicants are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), unless they have a degree from an accredited college or university in the U.S., the U.K., Canada (except Quebec), Australia, or New Zealand. A minimum score of 250 (computer-based), 600 (paper-based), or 100 (iBT) is required.

What is public health?

Public health is the science of protecting and improving the health of communities through education, promotion of healthy lifestyles, and research for disease and injury prevention.

Contact

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How to Apply

M.S. and Ph.D. Degree Programs

A complete application is comprised of two parts:

1. an application submitted to SOPHAS <http://sophas.org/>
2. an application submitted to the UI Office of Graduate Admissions

See our web site at www.public-health.uiowa.edu/biostat for complete information on the department, application deadlines and how to apply.

M.P.H. in Quantitative Methods Degree Program

M.P.H. applicants should follow the application procedures described on the M.P.H. Program web site: www.public-health.uiowa.edu/mph. For more information about the M.P.H. application process, please contact Lexie Just at lexie-just@uiowa.edu, 319-384-1539.

