BIOSTATISTICS

http://www.biostat.med.miami.edu/

Dept. Code: BST

Degree Programs

- Master of Science in Biostatistics (MS)
- Doctor of Philosophy in Biostatistics (PhD)

The Graduate Programs in the Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine are at the forefront of public health science with emphasis on research, education, and evidence based public health service. The Graduate Programs promote an environment of learning and inquiry, stressing the scientific method as a way of generating knowledge about common pathways in health and illness. The mission of the Graduate Programs in Public Health Sciences is to develop leaders who can expand and translate knowledge into policy and practice to promote health and prevent disease in human populations.

Admission Requirements

- **Application** - Applicants must submit their application online through SOPHAS (https://sophas.org/), the centralized application service of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) (https://www.aspph.org/). All application materials, including transcripts, test scores, statement of purpose/personal statement, resume/CV, and letters of recommendation, must be submitted directly through SOPHAS.
- **Transcripts** - Applicants must submit official transcripts from all previously attended colleges and universities. All foreign transcripts must be official and submitted in the original language. If the original language is not English, an official translation must be submitted along with the transcript. We do not accept evaluations from foreign credentialing service organizations. All non-U.S. transcripts must be evaluated by the World Education Service (https://www.wes.org/) (WES) using ICAP Course-by-course evaluation service.
- **Official GRE Test Scores** - Applicants are required to submit GRE general exam scores (http://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/about/) taken within the last five years.
- **English Proficiency Exam** - International students whose native language is not English and/or did not graduate from an English-teaching institution are required to submit TOEFL (https://www.ets.org/toefl/) or IELTS (https://www.ielts.org/en-us/) scores.
- **Resume/Curriculum Vitae** - Applicants must include a detailed resume including employment, public health experiences, community service, research, and academic or professional honors.
- **Statement of Purpose/Personal Statement** - Applicants are required to submit a statement of purpose that details their academic interest in the program. The statement should discuss any experience in biostatistics including training, education or other related qualifications. Applicants should discuss how earning the degree will contribute to their future professional and career goals. Applicants should also address any academic deficiencies, if applicable.
- **Letters of Recommendation** - Applicants must provide three letters of recommendation from individuals who are best able to assess their ability to be successful in a graduate degree program. Ideally, recommenders are recent professors, researchers or employers in a related field. Applicants will be asked to include the contact information of their recommenders on the SOPHAS application and recommenders will be sent an online form to complete via email.

For more information about our application process and to obtain detailed curricula on all our program offerings, please visit our website (http://publichealth.med.miami.edu/).

For further information, please contact:

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Masters Program in Biostatistics

- M.S. in Biostatistics (http://bulletin.miami.edu/graduate-academic-programs/medicine/biostatistics/biostatistics-ms/)

Doctoral Program in Biostatistics

- Ph.D. in Biostatistics (http://bulletin.miami.edu/graduate-academic-programs/medicine/biostatistics/biostatistics-phd/)
Biostatistics

BST 605. Statistical Principles of Clinical Trials. 3 Credit Hours.
This course is designed for individuals interested in the statistical aspects of clinical trials. Topics include types of clinical research, study design, treatment allocation, randomization and stratification, quality control, sample size requirements, patient consent, and interpretation of results. This course will additionally cover strengths and limitations of alternative study designs such as quasi-experiments and observational studies. Common sources of bias in these alternative study designs will be described along with design approaches to minimize bias.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Spring.

BST 610. Introduction to Statistical Collaboration. 3 Credit Hours.
This course gives students exposure to issues arising in biostatistics consulting and collaboration. Students will learn how to identify the scientific objectives of a study and to develop a statistical strategy appropriate for those objectives. The student will become familiar with problems arising in consulting situations, specifically relating to identification of study objectives and framing of research questions, study design, power and sample size determination and choice of analytical approach. The student will learn to communicate through presentation of oral and written reports, and through student and faculty critiques of these reports. This course is open only to MS and PhD Biostatistics students or instructor's permission.
Prerequisite: Academic Plan: BSTS_PHD or BSTS_MS.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Summer.

BST 625. Survey of Statistical Computing. 3 Credit Hours.
This three credit course aims to familiarize students with the basic use of SAS and R for routine statistical analysis and prepare them for more advanced courses and/or thesis research. Statistical computation will be illustrated with examples in medical research, biological study and business. The focus of the course is on the computing environment, therefore a thorough discussion of statistical theories will not be provided. It is expected that students will already be prepared statistically.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall.

BST 630. Longitudinal and Multilevel Data. 3 Credit Hours.
This course offers students an introduction to linear and generalized linear models for the analysis of multi-level and longitudinal biomedical data. The course will also provide students with the opportunity to develop the skills necessary to perform analysis of these types of data using statistical software packages.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Spring.

BST 640. Modern Numerical Multivariate Methods. 3 Credit Hours.
This course covers multivariate topics from both a classical as well as modern perspective. Topics to include: Multivariate Normal Distribution; Spectral Decomposition; Principal Component Analysis; Canonical Correlation Analysis; Newton's Method; Steepest Descent; Gradient Boosting; Coordinate Descent Algorithms; Trees; Forests; Discriminant Analysis. The R programming language (http://www.r-project.org) will be used extensively throughout the course for computation and statistical analysis.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall.

BST 649. Advanced Individual Study. 1-3 Credit Hours.
Individual work on a special project under faculty guidance.
Components: IND.
Grading: SUS.
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, & Summer.

BST 650. Topics in Biostatistical Research. 1 Credit Hour.
The course consists of a series of research level presentations in contemporary biostatistics research (broadly defined) by diverse outside speakers as well as faculty in the Division of Statistics or in other units on campus who are hosting presentations in biostatistics research. The emphasis will be on new methodologies and new developments in existing methodologies. However, recent developments on the implementation and comparison of methodology and on data types may also be included.
Components: LEC.
Grading: SUS.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.
Biostatistics

BST 660. Spatial Statistics. 3 Credit Hours.
Spatial data commonly arise from many fields including business, ecological, and health studies. This course will cover advanced techniques to tackle the spatial correlation. Topics include variogram estimation, spatial prediction, spatial point pattern analysis, estimating function based methods and others. Real data examples will be used to motivate and illustrate the use of the methods.

Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall.

BST 665. Design and Analysis of Clinical Trials. 3 Credit Hours.
This first part of this course is an advanced treatment of the key ideas underlying the design and analysis of contemporary clinical trials. By the end of the course, students will have learned the statistical foundations of Phase I, II, and III trials from the standpoint of classical Frequentist, Bayesian, and adaptive designs. In addition, students will learn the usual mechanisms for preparing a clinical trial protocol, data safety and monitoring, interim analysis, and proper close out of a trial.

Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall.

BST 670. Bayes Data Analysis: Theory and Computing. 3 Credit Hours.
This first part of this course is an advanced and comprehensive treatment of the foundations of Bayesian theory. Beginning with the Bayesian alternative to sampling theory, the course covers Savage's axioms, the standard Bayesian inference procedure, subjective Bayes interpretation and prior selection, the minimax and complete class theorems, a variety of Bayesian principles (likelihood, stopping time etc.), and a selection of standard parametric and non-parametric examples. The second part focuses on the computational implementation of Bayesian inference, namely Gibbs sampling, Metropolis-Hastings, and other Markov-Chain-Monte Carlo techniques for obtaining the posterior and posterior quantities. Computational examples will be illustrated using R and WinBUGS. Special topics will include approximate Bayes computing (ABC) and particle methods.

Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Spring.

BST 675. Intermediate Probability. 3 Credit Hours.
This course covers the basic foundations of probability to limit theorems at an intermediate level. Topics to include are events, random variables and their distributions, discrete and continuous random variables, generating functions, markov chains and convergence.

Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall.

BST 676. Introduction to Generalized Linear Models. 3 Credit Hours.
This course provides a unifying framework for formulation, estimation and inference using generalized linear models and towards the end examines some modern day extensions. Throughout the course, real data applications from medicine will be used and extensive use will be made of the R programming language.

Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Spring.

BST 680. Advanced Statistical Theory. 3 Credit Hours.
The first part of this course is a searching treatment of many of the key ideas undergirding hypothesis testing and estimation. In particular, several of the main theorems in mathematical statistics will be stated and proved in full detail. By the end of the course, students will have acquired enough background material for the treatment of a special topic, through a mix of lectures and assignments. Topics will include asymptotic expansions, information theory and non-parametrics.

Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Spring.

BST 690. Theory of Survival Analysis. 3 Credit Hours.
Survival analysis is an important tool of statistic with many applications. In this course, without losing sight of such applications, we will give special emphasis to the probabilistic foundations, in terms of counting processes and martingales. Topics include: Failure time models, inference in parametric models, Cox models, counting processes and martingales, likelihood, competing risks and analysis of recurrent event data. The R programming language will be used.
Prerequisite: MTH 524, MTH 525, and BST 680.

Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall.
BST 691. High Dimensional and Complex Data. 3 Credit Hours.
This course will cover some salient topics in high dimensional data analysis focusing on the uniqueness of the problem and discussing various analyses including error rate control methods, model based shrinkage, prediction, set analysis, cluster analysis, bump hunting and (if time permits), graphical models.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Spring.

BST 692. Case Studies in Biostatistics. 3 Credit Hours.
This course will demonstrate cases where commonly used statistical methods break down. It will give students the opportunity to apply new tweaks to common statistical methods and/or use entirely new techniques to address real applied biostatistics problems. Students will be presented with data that the UM faculty are working on, they will be asked to apply statistical methods that they have learned in previous classes and then they will study and apply new methods to handle complexities that are not well handled by the common techniques. The goal of the class is to give students the opportunity to apply their existing skills, study methods for identifying problems and then learn new methods to deal with complexities.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Summer.

BST 695. Special Topics. 3 Credit Hours.
The course is designed to allow the listing of special topics within the Division of Biostatistics degree programs and cross list topics with other department’s offerings.
Components: LEC.
Grading: GRD.
Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

BST 830. Doctoral Dissertation (pre-candidacy). 1-12 Credit Hours.
Required of all candidates for the PhD. The student will enroll for credit as determined by his/her advisor but not for less than a total of 24. Not more than 12 hours of BST 730 may be taken in regular semester, nor more than six in a summer session.
Components: THI.
Grading: SUS.
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, & Summer.

BST 840. Doctoral Dissertation (Post-Candidacy). 1-12 Credit Hours.
Required of all candidates for the PhD. The student will enroll for credits as determined by his/her advisor but not for less than a total of 24. Not more than 12 hours of BST 740 may be taken in regular semester, nor more than six in a summer session.
Components: THI.
Grading: SUS.
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, & Summer.

BST 850. Research in Residence. 1 Credit Hour.
Used to establish research in residence for the PhD. after the student has been enrolled for the permissible cumulative total in appropriate doctoral research. Credit not granted. May be regarded as full-time residence as determined by the Dean of the Graduate School.
Components: THI.
Grading: SUS.
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, & Summer.