Statistics is a scientific discipline by which statisticians assist other scientists and researchers in making informed decisions in the face of uncertainty. Statisticians use skills in a variety of areas to solve problems. The application of statistics is the embodiment of the scientific method.

The Master of Science in Statistics is an applied statistics degree that prepares outstanding students for successful and productive careers. The graduate curriculum is designed to equip students with decision-making skills necessary for successful careers as professional statisticians. Although a firm foundation in theoretical statistics is provided, most of the courses are applied in nature, offering approaches to the solution of important real-world problems.

Twenty to twenty-five students are currently enrolled in the master’s program in statistics. Full-time students should complete the master’s program in two years.

### Admission Requirements

Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited US university or equivalent, with a minimum 3.3 undergraduate GPA. We also require two methods courses beyond introductory statistics, a calculus-based statistical theory course, differential, integral, and multivariate calculus courses, and a linear algebra course. You must have a B- or higher in each course. A math minor is recommended.

### Profile of Admitted Students Fall 2017

- **MEAN GPA:** 3.90
- **MEAN GRE:** V - 160, Q -164, W - 4.0

### Masters Degree Requirements

- Thesis or Project
  - Thesis Option (33): minimum 27 coursework hours plus 6 thesis hours (Stat 699R)
  - Project Option (33): minimum 30 coursework hours plus 3 project hours (Stat 698R)
- Required courses: Stat 535, 536, 537, 624, 637, 641, 642, 651, and 666.
- Comprehensive written examination covering Stat 535, 624, 641, 642
- C+ or better in each class with a cumulative 3.0 GPA in all MS degree classes

### To Apply

Application forms are available online at [http://www.byu.edu/gradstudies/admissions](http://www.byu.edu/gradstudies/admissions)

As part of the application process, applicants must submit three recommendation letters, a letter of intent, official GRE scores, official TOEFL scores for international students, and payment of all university application fees. All applications must be submitted before the February 1 deadline for Fall admission, and students must agree to live according to BYU standards of personal conduct as stated in the Honor Code.

### Financial Assistance

The department has limited funds to supplement students’ financial resources. All admitted students receive teaching or research assistantships. Some students will receive full-tuition awards.
STAT 535 Applied Linear Models
Analysis of full-rank, model, over-parameterized model, cell means model, unequal subclass frequencies, and missing and fused cells. Estimability issues, diagnostics.

STAT 624 Statistical Computation
Fundamental numerical methods used by statisticians, programming concepts, efficient use of software available for statisticians, simulation studies.

STAT 641 Probability Theory & Mathematical Statistics 1
Axioms of probability; combinatorics; random variables, densities and distributions; expectation; independence; joint distributions; conditional probability; inequalities; derived random variables; generating functions; limit theorems; convergence results.

STAT 642 Probability Theory & Mathematical Statistics 2
Introduction to statistical theory, principles of sufficiency and likelihood; point and interval estimation, maximum likelihood, Bayesian inference, hypothesis testing, Neyman-Pearson lemma, likelihood ratio tests, asymptotic results including delta method, exponential family

STAT 538 Survival Analysis
Basic concepts of survival analysis, hazard functions, types of censoring, Kaplan-Meier estimates, Logrank tests, proportional hazard models, examples drawn from clinical and epidemiological literature.

STAT 631 Advanced Experimental Design
Response surface methods; mixture designs; optimal designs; fractions of two-level, three level, and mixed-level factorials; analysis of experiments with complex aliasing; robust parameter designs.

STAT 637 Generalized Linear Models
Generalized linear models framework, binary data, polytomous data, log-linear models.

STAT 651 Bayesian Methods
Basic Bayesian inference, conjugate and non-conjugate analyses, Markov Chain Monte Carlo Methods, hierarchical modeling, convergence diagnostics.

STAT 666 Multivariate Statistical Methods
Inference about mean vectors and covariance matrices, multivariate analysis of variance and regression, canonical correlation, discriminate analysis, cluster analysis, principal component analysis, factor analysis.

While not required, we recommend these undergraduate courses to expand your career opportunities:

STAT 124, 224 SAS programming
STAT 435 Nonparametric Statistical Methods
STAT 462 Quality Control and Industrial Statistics
STAT 466 Introduction to Reliability
Research emphases include Bayesian methods, environmental and spatial statistics, reliability of industrial and computing processes, statistical genetics and bioinformatics, mixed models and longitudinal data, data mining, chemometrics, actuarial methods, design and analysis of experiments, and statistical computation. In addition to these general areas, more specific research interest for individual faculty are listed on their web pages.