

Dear Incoming Students,

On behalf of the Biostatistics Track of the Master of Statistics Program, I welcome you as you begin your graduate education in Biostatistics. You are joining a degree program for professionals, designed to equip you to become an independent statistical consultant or collaborator at the Masters level in the United States. Many of our graduates are national or international leaders in industry. A substantial percentage go on to a PhD in Public Health, Biostatistics, or another PhD program. An MSTAT is a credential that will open many fields to your contributions as the statistician on the team.

You are joining a community of statistical scientists. A science is a systematic way of learning and knowing about our world. Statistics as a discipline is the science that quantifies the uncertainty of knowledge. A statistical scientist is more than a programmer, more than a data analyst, more than a data miner; yet a statistician may act in each of these roles and more. You are joining an international community of statistical practice, with all of its networks, norms, traditions, and frontiers.

Our profession requires a comprehensive understanding of analytical fields, such as mathematical statistics; and substantive fields, such as anatomy and physiology. It requires a commitment to gather unbiased data and to make decisions based on them. It requires the humility to rely on repeated experiments. It requires the wisdom to balance the mathematical and the human parts of knowledge to better our world. It requires the capacity to communicate with a variety of audiences. Our program provides the basis for you to have early successes and lifelong growth as our world continues to change. We are fortunate to have a select and internationally recognized faculty and highly competent staff to facilitate your academic career here. Our goal is to provide rich educational opportunities that will enhance your development as a confident and competent statistical scientist. The core curriculum will teach you how to speak the language of statistics, with track-specific and elective opportunities to deepen your expertise in specific areas of biostatistics. Many extra-curricular opportunities are also available for you to consider.

I challenge you to devote the personal effort necessary to excel, not by driving out your competitors, but by becoming the best statistician that you can be, and by nurturing your networks of statistical practice. These will serve you well as you mature in statistical science.

On behalf of our statistics faculty throughout the health sciences center and the larger university, as well as our MSTAT and Biostatistics Track staff, I wish you all the career rewards of adding this degree to your statistical credentials. We look forward to sharing in your success.

Welcome to our community of statistical practice.

Sincerely,
Marlene J. Egger PhD
Professor and Director
MSTAT Program Biostatistics Track

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