WELCOME FROM THE MSTAT PROGRAM

XIAOMING SHENG, PHD
WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

MARLENE EGGER, PHD
BIOSTATISTICS TRACK DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
STUDENT INTRODUCTIONS

• Your name and preferred pronouns?
STUDENT INTRODUCTIONS

• Where is your hometown?
STUDENT INTRODUCTIONS

• Why did you choose the University of Utah?
FACULTY ADVISOR
INTRODUCTIONS

Sarah Canning – Dr. Fares Qeadan
Andrew Curtin – Larry Cook
Heather Day – Greg Stoddard
Sherlyn Funk – Greg Stoddard
Connor Nicholls – Dr. Fares Qeadan
Katie Rogers – Dr. Kristy Allen-Brady
HISTORY OF OUR PROGRAM

MARLENE EGGER, PHD
BIOSTATISTICS TRACK DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
HISTORY OF OUR PROGRAM

• Founded in 1976; first graduate 1978
• Originally proposed as an MS in Biostatistics in the previous Division of Biostatistics, Department of Family and Community Medicine
• How did it become an MSTAT degree?
  – Only two state institutions: USU and UU
  – Division of specialty departments
    • Medical School at UU
    • Agriculture School USU
  – UU intentionally created a professional degree to train masters-level statistical consultants- MSTAT degree
• Interdepartmental, Interdisciplinary degree
  – No statistics or biostatistics department at UU
  – Program is facilitated by interdepartmental University Statistics Committee
  – MSTAT (or equivalent) is now a prerequisite to enter the DPHS PhD program in Biostatistics
The Master of Statistics program at the University of Utah is an interdepartmental and interdisciplinary program. The program awards the professional MStat degree with concentration areas in Biostatistics, Econometrics, Educational Psychology, Mathematics, and Sociology. The Master of Statistics Biostatistics track is housed within the Division of Public Health.
POLL

1. Which activities can I attend?
   a) Activities for MSTAT/Biostatistics students
   b) Activities for Public Health students
   c) Activities for students in all tracks
   d) Activities for medical residents
   e) All but (d)
STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)

ELIZABETH JOHNSON
What is the Student Advisory Committee?

What do we do?

How do you get involved?

Why should you get involved?

Email: uofupublichealthsac@gmail.com
POLICY ON COURSES AND REGISTRATION

ELIZABETH JOHNSON
ACADEMIC ADVISORS

April Sanders-Aboulila, MS
Elizabeth Espinoza Johnson
Kelsey Townsend, MS

All Programs + Petitions + UAC MPH
PhD + MSTAT/Biostatistics
MPH + MSPH + Certificates
ACADEMIC ADVISORS

• Your first point of contact
• Degree requirements, tuition, forms, procedures
• Problem solving
• Highlight opportunities
• Advising
• Schedule advising appointments online!
All students were assigned a faculty advisor.

Be proactive, get involved.

Take the initiative.

Faculty are a great resource for career advising, and practicum and project topics.

Get to know your faculty!

Your electives must be approved by a faculty advisor!
PREREQUISITES

• Probationary Admission
• You have one year to complete any outstanding prerequisites. Once they are complete please provide the academic advisor with an unofficial transcript.
• **Failure to complete the prerequisites will result in being dismissed from the program.**
POLL: WHO CAN HELP WITH WHAT?

1. I am having trouble registering for my class. I should ask:
   a) Elizabeth Espinoza Johnson in the MSTAT/Biostat Track
   b) Dr. Egger, MSTAT/Biostatistics Track Director
   c) Faculty Advisor

2. I want to get off probation. I should contact:
   a) My faculty advisor to write a letter stating that I have completed the missing prerequisites
   b) Kelsey Townsend, academic advisor in Public Health
   c) Dr. Fowles, the director of the overall MSTAT program, all tracks

3. I want to have a video games night for all MSTAT students. I can get help announcing it from:
   a) Laura Egbert, administrator for the overall MSTAT program has a listserv and she can post an announcement.
   b) Elizabeth Espinoza Johnson, academic advisor, has a listserv of MSTAT/Biostatistics students only
   c) The Public Health SAC
   d) Posting it myself on the CANVAS General Community Discussion Board of my MSTAT classes, with instructor permission
GRADING & REGISTRATION

• A passing grade is a B- or better anything below a B- is a failing grade
• Academic Probation/Dismissal
• Continuous Registration
  – Leave of Absence
MSTAT PRACTICUM - PBHLT 6971
& MSTAT PROJECT - PBHLT 6970

KRISTY ALLEN-BRADY, PHD
BIOSTATISTICS TRACK REPRESENTATIVE
MSTAT PRACTICUM DETAILS

• The practicum is one of the culminating experiences in the MStat-Biostatistics program. The purpose is to allow students to obtain specialized, hands-on, real-world experience in routine statistical consulting, data management, and data analysis, comparable to that in a master’s level career biostatistics position.
  – Students spend a minimum of 3-4 hours a week for one semester, or equivalent, in a direct work experience involving data management and statistical analysis, under the supervision of a mentor from the practicum site.
  – This may be paid or unpaid, but it should not ordinarily be work done at a job the student held before beginning the MStat-Biostatistics program.

Practicum Instructions: https://medicine.utah.edu/dfpm/public-health/programs/mstat-biostatistics/practicum.php
MSTAT PROJECT DETAILS

• The Mstat, Biostatics project is one of the culminating experience of a student’s degree, typically centered on statistical skills used for a career as a biostatistician. All MStat, Biostatistics students are required to complete and successfully defend a project prior to graduating. Students must:
  – choose a project topic not taught in a class, that coincides with their research interests
  – create a supervisory committee which consists of MStat, Biostatistics faculty
  – complete three project credit hours (roughly 135 hours of effort)
  – write a statistical report of publishable writing quality (about 20 pages)
  – present the project at a public seminar
  – successfully defend the project

Project Instructions: https://medicine.utah.edu/dfpm/public-health/programs/mstat-biostatistics/project.php
STUDENT RESOURCES

ELIZABETH JOHNSON, ACADEMIC ADVISOR
COMPUTING SERVICES

• Wireless available in most areas
• Microsoft Office access
• Cloud storage – box.utah.edu
• Umail-Exchange Online (O365)
• Notification Tools
  – UofU.status.io
  – Twitter feed
CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Cathy Tingstrom
ctingstrom@sa.utah.edu

- Considering/Negotiating Offers
- Interview Preparation
- CV/Resume Review
- Job Search
- Presentation Design for Industry
- Networking
ECCLES HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY

- Expert literature searching
  - Identifying appropriate databases and search terms
  - NCBI databases and tools
  - NIH Public Access compliance
  - Fall Semester Hours:
    - Mon-Fri 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

- 24/7 access for Public Health students
HOW TO CONTACT THE LIBRARY

http://libanswers.med.utah.edu

General Inquiries:

Email: ehsl-reference@lists.utah.edu
Call: 801-581-5534
Text: 801-903-2182

Nena Schvaneveldt
Nena.Schvaneveldt@Utah.edu
OTHER UNIVERSITY OF UTAH RESOURCES

Campus Police and Safety Escorts
801-585-2677
Center for Childcare and Family Resources
Center for Ethnic Student Affairs
Counseling Center
Center for Disability Services
Food Pantry
International Student & Scholar Services
LGBT Resource Center

Student Life Center
The Graduate School
Veterans Support Center
Women’s Resource Center
Writing Center (Grammarly)

All students should sign up for campus alerts. Through CIS, under the “update student profile box”, “set your U of U Campus Alert preferences”
STAY CONNECTED

- Facebook – Division of Public Health, University of Utah
- Twitter - @UUPublicHealth
- Instagram – uupublichealth
- Newsletter: Mondays @ 5pm, from Elizabeth Johnson
WHAT ARE EMPLOYERS LOOKING FOR?

GREG STODDARD, MS
ADJUNCT ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF FAMILY AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE