

Program Planner

PhD Program - Dissertation Plan A

This checklist is a planning tool. Please consult with your advisor to track academic progress. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA and enroll in at least 12 units per quarter.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS – STANDARD TRACK - 54 UNITS

CORE COURSES – 36 units

Course	Title	Units	Term Taken
STA 231A	Mathematical Statistics	4 units	_____
STA 231B	Mathematical Statistics	4 units	_____
STA 231C	Mathematical Statistics	4 units	_____
STA 232A	Applied Statistics	4 units	_____
STA 232B	Applied Statistics	4 units	_____
STA 232C	Applied Statistics	4 units	_____
STA 290	Seminar in Statistics (3 quarters; 1 unit each)	3 units	_____
STA 260	Methods in Statistical Consulting	3 units	_____
STA 390	Methods in Teaching Statistics	2 units	_____
ONE of the following courses:			
STA 242	Intro to Statistical Programming	4 units	_____
STA 243	Computational Statistics	4 units	_____

All coursework and the program of study must be approved by the Graduate Advisor.

TOTAL CORE UNITS: _____

ELECTIVE COURSES – 18 units

At least five graduate-level courses, at least four of which must be from Statistics, from the following list of potential elective courses:

Course	Title	Units	Term Taken
STA 222	Survival Analysis	4 units	_____
STA 223	Generalized Linear Models	4 units	_____
STA 224	Analysis of Longitudinal Data	4 units	_____
STA 225	Clinical Trials	4 units	_____
STA 226	Statistical Methods for Bioinformatics	4 units	_____
STA 235A,B,C	Probability Theory	4 units	_____
STA 237 A,B	Time Series Analysis	4 units	_____
STA 250*	Topics in Applied and Computational Statistics	4 units	_____
STA 251*	Topics in Statistical Methods and Models	4 units	_____
STA 252	Advanced Topics in Biostatistics	4 units	_____

Please note that other graduate STA courses (STA 200ABC, STA 201, STA 206-207-208 for example) may not be used to satisfy the graduate elective requirement for the Ph.D. degree. If you have any questions please ask the Graduate Advisor or the Graduate Program Coordinator.

*The topics of these courses change each quarter and with each instructor.

TOTAL ELECTIVE UNITS: _____

Report any approved course substitutions to your Program Coordinator for your file.

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COURSE REQUIREMENTS – BIOSTATISTICS TRACK - 55 UNITS

CORE COURSES – 48 units

Course	Title	Units	Term Taken
BST 222	Survival Analysis	4 units	_____
BST 223	Generalized Linear Models	4 units	_____
BST 224	Clinical Trials & Advanced Topics	4 units	_____
STA 231A	Mathematical Statistics	4 units	_____
STA 231B	Mathematical Statistics	4 units	_____
STA 231C	Mathematical Statistics	4 units	_____
STA 232A	Applied Statistics	4 units	_____
STA 232B	Applied Statistics	4 units	_____
STA 232C	Applied Statistics	4 units	_____
BST 290	Seminar in Statistics (3 quarters; 1 unit each)	3 units	_____
STA 260	Methods in Statistical Consulting	3 units	_____
STA 390	Methods in Teaching Statistics	2 units	_____

All coursework and the program of study must be approved by the Graduate Advisor.

ONE of the following courses:

STA 242	Intro to Statistical Programming	4 units	_____
STA 243	Computational Statistics	4 units	_____

Please note that other graduate STA courses (STA 200ABC, STA 201, STA 206-207-208 for example) may not be used to satisfy the graduate elective requirement for the Ph.D. degree. If you have any questions please ask the Graduate Advisor or the Graduate Program Coordinator.

TOTAL CORE UNITS: _____

ELECTIVE COURSES – 7 units

In addition, one life sciences course (non-quantitative biology course) at the upper division or graduate level (4 units) and one elective graduate level course from Statistics or Biostatistics (at least 3 units).

Course	Title	Units	Term Taken
_____	_____	4 units	_____
_____	_____	3 or 4 units	_____

TOTAL ELECTIVE UNITS: _____

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Program of Study

This is a Plan A program with final oral examination (defense of the dissertation). A Ph.D. student will select an area of specialization and will choose a major professor and dissertation adviser in that area, usually in the second or third year of study. The student's program of study will be developed by the student jointly with the Graduate Advisor.

More information can be found on the Statistics website

Ph.D. Pre-Qualifying Written Examination

The Ph.D. Pre-qualifying Written Examination will be given at the beginning of each Spring Quarter and also at the beginning of each Fall Quarter. Students in the Ph.D. program must attempt the exam in the Spring Quarter immediately after they complete both the STA 231AB and STA 232AB core course series. The Ph.D. Pre-qualifying Written Examination is a written exam with two parts: a theoretical part and an applied part. The duration of each part is about 3-4 hours. The applied part may be administered in a computer lab and may include the use of statistical software. The Chair of the Graduate Program in Statistics (GPS) will appoint an examination committee that will be responsible for preparing, administering and grading the examination. This committee will forward its recommendation to the GPS, which will make the final decision on each student.

Ph.D. Qualifying Examination

The Ph.D. Qualifying Examination is an oral exam. The exam will be attempted as soon as the Ph.D. Pre-qualifying Written Examination has been passed and all required coursework for the Ph.D. degree in Statistics has been completed. In accordance with university rules, students are requested to take their qualifying examination before the end of the third year to remain eligible for academic appointments such as TA. The preparation for the exam will be done by working closely with a faculty mentor (independent study). The Ph.D. Qualifying Examination covers a special research topic assigned by an examining committee consisting of five faculty members. A forty-five minute presentation given by the student is followed by a question period which covers the special research topic as well as coursework in general. The examining committee will be appointed by Graduate Council at the recommendation of the graduate adviser who consults with the student prior to making the recommendation. The major professor is not eligible to serve as chair of the examining committee.

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Dissertation

The *doctoral dissertation* is an essential part of this program. A topic will be selected by the student, under the advice and guidance of a major professor (thesis adviser) and a dissertation committee chaired by the major professor. Students are encouraged to begin some research activity as early as possible during the second year of their graduate studies. The dissertation must contain an original contribution of publishable quality to the knowledge of statistics that may expand the theory or methodology of statistics, or expand or modify statistical methods to solve a critical problem in applied disciplines.

Final Examination

Defense of the dissertation before the five-member dissertation committee (three faculty who read the committee, plus two for the exam only) will constitute the final examination for the Ph.D. degree. The final examination must be passed within four years after promotion to Candidacy, unless a special exception is granted. Pass or no pass is determined by a vote of the dissertation committee. Title and abstract of the Ph.D. Defense presentation will be distributed to all faculty and students of the Graduate Program in Statistics, who are invited to attend the presentation portion of the examination. The subsequent question period is a closed session between the student and the committee.

Normative Time to Degree

The Normative time to Degree is four to five years.