

UW Statistics
CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

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Outline.

1. **The Statistics Curriculum: Course Work**

- Masters Degree
- PhD Degree
- Preliminary Examinations

2. **TA or RA work:**

- TA work
- RA work

3. **Beyond Prelims:**

- Finding an advisor
- Dissertation process

1. The Statistics Curriculum: Course Work

A. Masters Degree

First Year – Masters

Course	Fall	Winter	Spring
1	512	513	??
2	502	504	??
3	M574	M575	M576

- Possibilities for ??:
529 Survey sampling
533 Linear models,
534 Computing,
542/574 Multivariate,
544 Bayesian methods,
598 Consulting,
500 Level Biostat courses

Masters, continued

Second Year Masters (not PhD):

Course	Fall	Winter	Spring
1		Sequence 1	
2	??	??	??
3	??	??	??

- Possibilities for ??:
533 Linear models,
534 Computing,
542/574 Multivariate,
544 Bayesian methods,
598 Consulting,
500 Level Biostat courses,
519-520 Time Series.
- Must do one quarter of consulting either first or second year.
- Make sure credits add up to at least 7 (+3 for seminar TA gives 10 minimum).

Masters Degree Exams:

- First Year Theory Exam: June each year
- Masters Applied Exam: May each year

B. PhD Degree

First Year PhD

Course	Fall	Winter	Spring
1		Sequence 1	
2		Sequence 2	
3	??	??	??

- Sequence 1, 2, or 3 possibilities:
 - Stat 516-517-518: Stochastic modeling
 - Stat 521-522-523: Probability
 - Stat 534-535-538: Computing
 - Stat 570-571-572: Applied Statistics
 - Stat 581-582-583: Statistical Theory
 - Stat 550-551-552: Statistical GeneticsSocial Science subject area:
 - Demography or Econometrics
- Possibilities for ??:
 - 500 level (non-core sequence) courses,
 - Consulting.

- Make sure credits add up to at least 7!
- Begin looking for an advisor.

Second Year PhD

Course	Fall	Winter	Spring
1		Sequence 3	
2	??	??	??
3	??	??	??

- Possibilities for ??:
500 level courses,
another core sequence,
independent study
- Should do one quarter of consulting
somewhere in here.
- Make sure credits add up to at least 7!
- Begin working with advisor

C. Preliminary Examinations

- Two required.
- Generally from 2 of the three “core sequences” .
- General rule: complete at least one exam per year.
- Timing:
 - Theory and Applied Exams:
September
 - Other Exams: variable – during summer

2. TA and RA Work and Responsibilities

A. TA Work

- Keep in touch with the instructor: meet regularly with your instructor (at least once/week).
- Understand the instructor's policies for the course.
- If you cannot meet your class, inform the instructor and find a replacement who is approved by the instructor.
- Hold at least one office hour/week at the Statistics Tutor & Study Center

A useful source of information about all aspects of TA work are the CIDR web pages at

[http://depts.washington.edu/
cidrweb/TAHandbook/index.html](http://depts.washington.edu/cidrweb/TAHandbook/index.html)

B. RA Work

- Learn the expectations of the supervisor of your RA.
- Communicate regularly with your supervisor.
- Actively contribute to the scientific effort of the research project.
- Attend and actively participate in scheduled meetings.
- Perform work promptly without excessive prodding.
- Discuss problems as they arise.

The expectation for both TA and RA positions cases is that if you are being funded you will be at the University of Washington and conscientiously participating in the research project or teaching activity.

Exceptions to this must be cleared in advance with your faculty supervisor and the Graduate Program Coordinator.

3. Beyond Prelims

A. Finding An Advisor

Starting the process:

What interests you?

- Talking to faculty!
- Coursework
- Seminars
- Reading courses
- Statistics and non-Statistics RA announcement

Ph.D. Advisors: Who pays?

- Not all faculty have research \$ available.
- Trade-offs: freedom of topic versus getting paid to finish.
- Current grant support: VIGRE, NSA, NSF, MURI, NIH, Genetics, ...
- Be aware of departmental announcements of research projects and open RA positions.
- Start early.

Ph.D. Research topics: criteria

- Most important: choose a topic that interests you!
- Next most important: choose an advisor with whom you enjoy working.
- Talk to current and former students.
- **Pick a topic or problem that interests you!**

B. Dissertation Stage

Third and Fourth Year PhD:

- General exam sometime during year 3.
- Final exam sometime during year 4.
- Additional courses as time and interest permits.
- Most students finish in about 5 years.

References

Faculty and other students

UW Statistics Web pages:

- <http://www.stat.washington.edu/www/graduate/programs/index.html>
- http://www.stat.washington.edu/www/graduate/surv_guide/index.html

UW CIDR Web pages:

- <http://depts.washington.edu/cidrweb/TAHandbook/index.html>