DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN THE FIELD OF BIOSTATISTICS

REQUIREMENTS

Specific admission requirements are shown on the Graduate Program Finder. (http://www.gwu.edu/all-graduate-programs)

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate Programs (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#degreeregulationstext).

The requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy Program (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#doctoraltext).

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<th>Code</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<td>Undergraduate course requirements (or equivalents to these GW courses) for admission consideration:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MATH 1231 Single-Variable Calculus I</td>
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<td>MATH 1232 Single-Variable Calculus II</td>
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<td>STAT 2118 Regression Analysis</td>
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<td>MATH 2233 Multivariable Calculus</td>
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<td>Additional course requirements* (or equivalents to these GW courses):</td>
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<td>MATH 2184 Linear Algebra I</td>
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One of the following:

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<th>Code</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STAT 1129 Introduction to Computing</td>
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<td>STAT 2183 Intermediate Statistics Lab/Packages</td>
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<td></td>
<td>PUBH 6249 Use of Statistical Packages: Data Management and Data Analysis</td>
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Applicants lacking these courses (or equivalents to these GW courses) will be considered for admission, but, if admissible, will be admitted conditionally with the expectation that these courses will be satisfactorily completed within two semesters following matriculation in the program. These credits do not count as credit toward the 72-credit graduation requirement nor are grades earned in additional courses reflected in the overall grade-point average.

Ph.D. in the field of biostatistics degree requirements: 72 credits of coursework and research, with a minimum of 51 credits of courses and a minimum of 12 credits of dissertation research.
Doctor of Philosophy in the Field of Biostatistics

Dissertation research:
12-24 credits of the following:
BIOS 8999 Dissertation Research

General and final examinations
The General Examination is given in two parts:

- Part I is a written comprehensive examination based on the course content of STAT 6202 Mathematical Statistics II, STAT 6213 Intermediate Probability and Stochastic Processes (administered by faculty of the Department of Statistics), and PUBH 6266 Biostatistical Methods (administered by the faculty of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics). Students are expected to take the comprehensive examination within 24 months from the date of enrollment in the program. In addition, students are required to make up any deficiencies prior to taking the examination, e.g., by enrolling in appropriate master's-level courses as needed. A student who fails to pass the comprehensive examination may, with the approval of the faculty, repeat the examination the following year. Failure on the second attempt will result in termination from the Ph.D. program.

- Part II, the research proposal, consists of an oral examination based on a written dissertation research proposal. As soon as feasible after successful completion of the comprehensive exam, students are encouraged to identify a dissertation advisor and a topic of research. The written dissertation proposal is then submitted to the student’s Dissertation Research Committee, and the student will make an oral presentation of his or her proposal to the Committee. The Committee will determine the student’s readiness to pursue and successfully complete the proposed research, in addition to the appropriateness of the specific problem for dissertation-level research.

Upon successful completion of the required coursework and both parts of the General Examination, the candidate will generally be recommended to the Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs of The Columbian College of Arts and Sciences (CCAS) for promotion to Ph.D. Candidacy: the dissertation research. A candidate must file an approved dissertation research plan with the CCAS before being admitted to Ph.D. Candidacy. Prior to completion of the General Examination, a student may register for at most 6 credits of BIOS 8999 Dissertation Research.

Consulting:
Note: May be waived by the Biostatistics Program Director, based on written documentation of prior equivalent coursework or relevant work experience. Waiver of the consulting course increases the total number of electives by the number of consulting credits waived.

BIOS 8998 Advanced Topics in Biostatistical Consulting

Professional enhancement requirement: 8 hours
Professional enhancement activities supplement the academic curriculum and help prepare students to participate actively in the professional community. They enhance practical
knowledge and awareness of public health issues – either in
general or in a student’s specific area of study.

Students can fulfill this requirement by attending workshops,
seminars, or other relevant professional meetings, which are
often held at SPH and in the metropolitan Washington, DC
area. Examples of conference sponsors include the National
Academy for State Health Policy, the Pan American Health
Organization, the American Public Health Association, the
American College of Healthcare Executives, the Area Health
Education Center, the American College of Sports Medicine,
and the National Athletic Trainer’s Association. Opportunities
for professional enhancement are regularly publicized via the
SPH Listserv and through the department or the biostatistics
academic advisor.

Students must submit documentation of professional
enhancement activities to the biostatistics academic advisor,
which includes a prior approval, a description of the program
agenda, and proof of attendance before applying for
graduation.