



The Biostatistics Graduate Program at Boston University (MS/PhD)



Program Handbook **2026-2027**



Boston University Graduate School of Arts & Sciences

Boston University School of Public Health

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Mission Statements

The mission of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences (GRS) is the advancement of knowledge through research and scholarship, and the preparation of future researchers, scholars, college and university teachers, and other professionals.

The mission of the Boston University School of Public Health is to improve the health of local, national and international populations, particularly the disadvantaged, underserved and vulnerable, through excellence and innovation in education, research and service.

The mission of the Department of Biostatistics:

- To teach students the proper conduct of research studies through rigorous study design and appropriate descriptive and analytic methods that enable valid, interpretable conclusions to be drawn
- To collaborate in research projects to ensure that studies are properly designed, appropriately analyzed, and suitably interpreted
- To develop and evaluate new methods of biostatistical analysis and strategies for study design

Introduction to the Biostatistics Graduate Program	4
Overview	4
<i>MS Degree Requirements</i>	5
Overview of the MS Degree.....	5
MS Learning Outcomes	5
MS Degree Requirements.....	5
MS Curriculum	5
MS Program ELECTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS	Error! Bookmark not defined.
MS Program Requirements AND POLICIES	8
MS GRADUATION	9
GRS POLICIES	10
<i>PhD Degree Requirements</i>	11
Overview of the PhD Degree.....	11
PhD Learning outcomes	11
PhD Degree Requirements.....	11
PhD Curriculum	12
Additional Coursework (Optional)	17
PhD Advising System	17
PhD Program Requirements and Policies	18
PhD Graduation	24
<i>Administrative Timeline & Progress to Degree.....</i>	25
Timeline to Doctoral Degree	25
<i>Course Descriptions</i>	29
Biostatistics Course Descriptions.....	29
<i>Biostatistics Program Faculty</i>	30
<i>Biostatistics MS Degree Audit Sheet (32 credits)</i>	31
<i>Biostatistics PhD Degree Audit Sheet</i>	32

Introduction to the Biostatistics Graduate Program

OVERVIEW

Today biostatisticians play a critical role in studies of risk factors for disease, in assessing safety and efficacy of new therapies in clinical trials, and in the evaluation of patient outcomes. The results of these studies have public health and policy implications. From discussions with investigators about fine-tuning research questions to developing appropriate study designs, planning and implementing proper statistical analyses, and writing up the results, biostatisticians are involved in all aspects of research investigations. The goals of the faculty of the Department of Biostatistics are to participate actively in innovative research, to advance medical and statistical science, and to teach and work closely with students so that they may acquire the knowledge to pursue productive careers in medical and public health research and academia at the highest levels.

Students may pursue graduate study in biostatistics through the Biostatistics Graduate Program, jointly administered by the Department of Biostatistics of the School of Public Health and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. The program offers students the opportunity to not only gain expertise in mathematical statistics, but also to specialize in the epidemiologic, medical, and bioscientific applications of statistics. Students are required to take courses in both the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and the Department of Biostatistics. The program offers a Master of Science (MS) in Biostatistics and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Biostatistics. Students pursue the PhD degree on a full-time basis and can choose to pursue the MS degree on either a full- or part-time basis, although they must complete their programs within a specified period of time as required by the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences.

Students who complete these programs will gain knowledge of probability, statistical inference and hypothesis testing, the design and conduct of experimental and epidemiological studies, statistical computation, and data analysis. Research interests of the Biostatistics department faculty include multivariate modeling, survival analysis, medical statistics, clinical trials methodology, statistical genetics, robust statistics, methods for the analysis of correlated data (longitudinal, spatial) data, estimation theory, and the design of experiments. Further information can be obtained from the directors of the program.



MS Degree Requirements

OVERVIEW OF THE MS DEGREE

The Master of Science in Biostatistics program is aimed primarily at students with the equivalent of a Bachelor's degree who wish to pursue advanced study in the theory and methods of biostatistics. The program prepares students to function as collaborators on research projects in academia, industry or government, and prepares students for doctoral programs in biostatistics or other quantitative areas of health research.

MS LEARNING OUTCOMES

A candidate for a Master of Science degree in Biostatistics is expected to demonstrate mastery of knowledge in biostatistics by

- Demonstrating mastery at a Master's level of biostatistical theory and application through high achievement in course work.
- Demonstrating commitment to advancing the values of scholarship by keeping abreast of current advances within biostatistics and showing commitment to personal professional development through engagement in professional societies and publication.
- Conducting scholarly work in a professional and ethical manner guided by the principles of the profession.

MS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The Graduate School of Arts & Sciences requires students pursuing a Master of Science in Biostatistics to:

- Complete the 32-credit curriculum
- Fulfill the Residency Requirement
- Fulfill the Grade Requirement
- Successfully complete the Capstone course
- Complete the MS degree within 3 years of matriculation to the program

MS CURRICULUM

Students in the MS program must complete a total of 32 credits as follows:

Note: CAS MA581 and MET AT581, and CAS MA582 and MET AT582 are equivalent courses. Where you see MA581 or MA582 as a prerequisite, AT581 and AT582 can be substituted

Course #	Course Title	When offered***	Prerequisites
Eight Core Courses, required: 24 credits from courses + 0 credit Capstone and Career Prep and Introduction to Public Health (PH 700):			
SPH PH 700	Foundation of Public Health (0 credits)	Fall/Spring	Automatically enrolled by Registrar and must be completed before first semester of program
CAS MA581/ MET AT581	Probability (4 credits)	Fall/Spring/Summer	
CAS MA582/ MET AT582	Mathematical Statistics (4 credits)	Fall/Spring/Summer	MA581
SPH BS755	Theory of Linear Models for Biostatistics (4 credits)	Fall	MA581
SPH EP770	Concepts and Methods in Epidemiology (4 credits)	Fall/Spring	
SPH BS852 or SPH BS818 AND SPH BS819	Biostatistical Methods for Observational Studies (4 credits)	Fall/Spring	BS 805 or BS 806
	Basic Survival Analysis (2 credits)	Fall	
	Logistic Regression (2 credits)	Fall	
SPH BS805 or SPH BS806	Intermediate Statistical Programming in SAS for Applied Linear Models (4 credits)	Fall/Spring	
	Statistical Learning with Applications in R (4 credits)	Fall	
SPH BS880	Master of Science in Biostatistics Capstone course (0 credits)	Fall	In third semester of MS program or permission of instructors
SPH PH 746	Career Prep (0 credits)	Fall/Spring/Summer	
Elective Courses (8 credits):			
CAS MA576	Generalized Linear Models	Spring	MA 575 ^a
CAS MA578	Bayesian Statistics	Spring	MA 581
CAS MA583	Introduction to Stochastic Processes	Spring	MA 581
CAS MA585	Time Series Modeling and Forecasting	Spring	MA 581
CAS MA588	Nonparametric Statistics	Spring	MA 582
CAS MA589	Computational Statistics	Fall	MA 581
CAS MA592 ⁺	Introduction to Causal Inference	Fall (every other year)	MA 575 ^a
CAS MA685	Advanced Topics in Applied Statistical Analysis	Fall	

CAS MA751 [#]	Statistical Machine Learning	Spring	MA 575 ^a , MA 581
CAS MA752	Mathematical Foundations of Deep Learning	Spring	MA 581
CAS MA781*	Estimation Theory	Fall	MA 581, MA 582
CASMA782*	Hypothesis Testing	Spring	MA 781
Elective Courses (8 credits; continued):			
CAS MA861*	Seminar: Applied Mathematics		
CAS MA881*	Seminar: Statistics		
CAS MA882	Seminar: Statistics (Limit 4 credits)	Fall/Spring	
CAS CS542 [#]	Machine Learning	Fall, Spring, Summer	
SPH BS722	Design and Conduct of Clinical Trials	Fall/Spring	Prior coursework in both epidemiology and biostatistics
SPH BS728	Public Health Surveillance, a Methods Based Approach (2 cr)	Fall	
SPH BS807 ⁺	Applied Causal Inference in Health Research	Alt Fall (even yrs)	
SPH BS810	Meta-analysis for Public Health and Medical Research	Spring	
SPH BS825	Advanced Infectious Disease Epidemiology (2 credits)	Fall	Prior coursework in Epidemiology
SPH BS828	Advanced Survival Analysis (2 credits)	Fall	BS 818
SPH BS831	Genomics Data Mining and Statistics (2 credits)	Spring	
SPH BS845	Applied Statistical Modeling & Programming in R	Fall	
SPH BS849	Bayesian Modeling for Biomedical Research & Public Health (2 credits)	Spring	
SPH BS851	Applied Statistics in Clinical Trials I	Fall/Spring	
SPH BS853	Generalized Linear Models with Applications	Spring	BS 805 or BS 806
SPH BS854	Bayesian Methods in Clinical Trials	Alt Falls (odd yrs)	BS 851
SPH BS857	Analysis of Correlated Data	Spring	BS 805 or BS 806
SPH BS858	Statistical Genetics I	Fall	
SPH BS859	Applied Genetic Analysis	Spring	
SPH BS860	Statistical Genetics II	Alt Springs (even yrs)	BS 858 or BS 859
SPH BS861	Applied Statistics in Clinical Trials II	Spring	BS 851

SPH BS862	Race and Racism in Biostatistics (2 credits)	Fall	
SPH BS901**	Directed Study in Biostatistics	TBD	
SPH BS902**	Directed Research in Biostatistics	TBD	
SPH EP854*	Advanced Epidemiology	Fall	

^a BS755 covers similar material to MA575 and should be acceptable as a substitute prerequisite. MSB students who have taken the equivalent of MA581 during undergraduate may enroll in BS755 in their first semester.

* Must obtain permission from academic advisor and/or instructor to take this course as an elective.

Only one of these two courses may count as an elective

+ Only one of these two courses may count as an elective

** A maximum of 4 credits is allowed across these two courses.

Important note: Please see course catalog on mybustudent for full course descriptions. Course semester offerings are subject to change; for the most up-to-date course offering information, please see the University Class Schedule on <https://mybustudent.bu.edu/>

Example 3-semester, 32 credit MS Program:

Year 1 Fall (12 credits)	Year 1 Spring (12 credits)	Year 2 Fall (8 credits)
PH700	MA582	BS755
MA581	Elective or EP770	Elective or (BS818 and BS819) or BS852, if not taken Year 1
BS805 or BS806	Elective or BS852	BS880
EP770 or Elective 1		PH746

*Students should not take both BS852 and (BS818 and BS819)

MS PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES

Residency Requirements: Students must be registered in both the semester in which the last degree requirements are completed and in the preceding semester. For example, if a student plans to complete their degree requirements in the Spring of 2027, they must be registered in both Spring 2027 and Fall 2026.

Grade Requirements: Students must earn a grade of B- or better in all courses applied to the degree. Students must meet all the requirements of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences Satisfactory Progress and Good Academic Standing.

Satisfactory progress: The Graduate School of Arts & Sciences minimum standard for Satisfactory Academic Progress requires that students maintain a Cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.0 or higher. Failing to maintain a 3.0 GPA may affect eligibility for federal financial aid.

Good academic standing: Students must meet the requirements of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences for Good Academic Standing. Students may have no more than two failing (less than B-) or W grades and meet all milestones of the program in order to meet the time limits of the program. Failure to remain in good academic standing can result in dismissal from the program.

SPH PH700 Foundations of Public Health

All MS and PhD Biostatistics students must complete the zero-credit, self-paced, online course [SPH PH700 Foundations of Public Health](#). PH700 is an online [Blackboard](#) course that

consists of 17 self-paced modules, which cover foundational knowledge in public health that prepare students to fully engage in their program of study. PH700 fulfills criteria for foundational public health knowledge, as required of all graduate students by SPH's accrediting body, the Council on Education for Public Health ([CEPH](#)).

SPH PH746 Career Prep

MS students are required to take the [SPH Career PREP course SPH PH746](#). This course is offered every semester and designed to give you the tools and techniques to effectively market yourself during the job search process and to advance in your career.

MS Capstone Course BS880

The MS candidates must satisfactorily pass the 0-credit Capstone course offered every fall term. This course should be taken in the last fall semester. The course meets for ~2 hours per week for ~10 weeks.

Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)

The Biostatistics department strongly recommends that MS students complete at least step one of the University's [Responsible Conduct of Research](#) training. RCR consists of two steps:

- **Step 1:** Complete [CITI RCR Training](#), which consists of self-guided online modules and quizzes, offered through the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Program.
- **Step 2:** Complete Advanced RCR 1 credit course (see information in the Biostatistics PhD RCR requirement section)

MS GRADUATION

Please review the detailed graduation timeline and procedures on the [Master's Graduate Information webpage](#). Note that several steps, including the [Intent to Graduate](#) form, must be taken well in advance of the intended graduation date. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of all graduation procedures.

Master of Science in Biostatistics students are eligible and invited to participate in both the GRS and SPH Commencement ceremonies. Most students choose to participate only in the SPH ceremony. Students must register in advance for each Commencement ceremony in which they plan to participate. Information and instructions about Commencement will be sent directly from SPH and GRS. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of all Commencement ceremony procedures.

Important Note: All diplomas will be mailed after the commencement date. You will need to ensure your diploma name and mailing address are correct in your MyBU student profile. More information on diplomas and mailing schedules can be found on the [University Registrar's webpage](#).

GRS POLICIES

All students must adhere to all Boston University Graduate School of Arts & Sciences [academic policies](#); and the University's [Administrative Policies](#). Note that this information [may change](#) at any time.



PhD Degree Requirements

OVERVIEW OF THE PHD DEGREE

The PhD program in Biostatistics is geared toward graduate students who seek a career as academic, industrial, or governmental biostatisticians. The Program meets the needs of the professional who wishes to achieve a high graduate degree specialized in statistical theory and methods for biomedical or clinical research applications. Students who complete the PhD program will gain knowledge in probability, statistical inference and hypothesis testing, the design and conduct of experimental and observational studies, statistical computation, and data analysis. Research interests of the program faculty include estimation and hypothesis testing theory, multivariate analysis, survival analysis, clinical trials methodology, statistical genetics and genomics, disease surveillance, robust statistics, longitudinal data analysis, time series, regression modeling for correlated data, causal inference, and the design of experiments.

PHD LEARNING OUTCOMES

A candidate for a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Biostatistics is expected to demonstrate mastery of knowledge in biostatistics and to synthesize and create new knowledge, making an original and substantial contribution to the field in a timely fashion by:

- Demonstrating mastery at a doctoral level of biostatistical theory and application through high achievement in course work and on written comprehensive examinations.
- Making an independent, original, and substantial contribution to the field of biostatistics, assessed through an oral defense of the dissertation work.
- Demonstrating commitment to advancing the values of scholarship by keeping abreast of current advances in the field of biostatistics and showing commitment to personal professional development through engagement in professional societies and publication.
- Conducting scholarly work in a professional and ethical manner guided by the principles of the profession.

PHD DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The Graduate School of Arts & Sciences requires all students pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy in Biostatistics to:

- Complete the 64-credit program (students with a relevant prior MS/MA may transfer up to 32 credits)
- Fulfill the Residency Requirement
- Fulfill the Grade Requirement
- Pass both Qualifying Examinations
- Attend seminars and presentations as described below.
- Complete a dissertation that conforms to program and Graduate School requirements (outlined below)
- Pass the Final Oral Defense Examination
- Complete the PhD degree within 7 years of matriculation to the program
- Submit at least one paper based on dissertation work for publication

Additionally, students in Dissertation Phase are required to:

- Present the status of their dissertation research once per year
- Meet with their full dissertation committee at least twice per year
- Submit dissertation progress reports twice per year

Students are responsible to understand and comply with all GRS requirements for doctoral students found [here](#), as well as requirements for maintaining Good Academic Standing and Satisfactory Academic Progress [here](#).

PHD CURRICULUM

The intent of the curriculum is to provide a firm foundation in biostatistical theory and mastery of a broad range of applied techniques. Students in the PhD program entering with only a bachelor's degree must complete a total of 64 credits.

Students entering the PhD program with MS degrees may be accepted into an eight-course (32 credits) post-Master's PhD program. However, they may be required to take additional co-requisites if there are any gaps in their background. For post-Master's PhD students, the core courses required will be determined at the start of their program by the Co-Directors. The remaining courses must come from the list of Biostatistics (either BS or MA) or Elective courses.

Students may take up to four credits of coursework not listed below if it is related to their thesis and approved by their advisor. A written justification of the course selection must be sent by the advisor to the Program Directors. This must be submitted at least one month prior to the start of the semester. Submit your request for permission to take an alternative course on [this form](#).

Note: CAS: CAS MA581 and MET AT581, (and CAS MA582 and MET AT582) are equivalent courses. Where you see MA581 or MA582 as a prerequisite, AT581 and AT582 can be substituted

Course #	Course Title	When offered***	Prerequisites
Nine Core Courses, required (36 credits):			
SPH PH 700	Foundation of Public Health (0 cr)	Completed prior to beginning first semester	Automatically enrolled by SPH Registrar
CAS MA581/ MET AT581	Probability	Fall/Spring/Sum	
CAS MA582/ MET AT582	Mathematical Statistics	Fall/Spring/Sum	MA581
SPH BS755	Theory of Linear Models for Biostatistics	Fall	MA581
SPH EP770	Concepts and Methods in Epidemiology	Fall/Spring	
SPH BS805 OR SPH BS806	Intermediate Statistical Programming in SAS for Applied Linear Models Statistical Learning with Applications in R	Fall/Spring/Sum Fall	
SPH BS853 OR CAS MA576	Generalized Linear Models with Applications Generalized Linear Models	Spring Spring	BS 805 or BS 806
SPH BS857	Analysis of Correlated Data	Spring	BS 805 or BS 806
CAS MA781	Estimation Theory	Fall	MA 581, MA 582
CAS MA782	Hypothesis Testing	Spring	MA 781
ENG EK800	Responsible Conduct of Research	Spring, Fall	
1. At least 12 credits from the following Biostatistics courses:			
SPH BS722	Design and Conduct of Clinical Trials	Fall/Spring	Prior coursework in epidemiology and biostatistics
SPH BS728	Public Health Surveillance, a Methods Based Approach (2 credits)	Fall	
SPH BS775	Applications of Statistical Methods in Clinical Research	Alt Springs (even yrs)	
SPH BS807***	Applied Causal Inference in Health Research	Alt Falls (even yrs)	
SPH BS810	Meta-analysis for Public Health and Medical Research	Spring	
SPH BS818^	Basic Survival Analysis (2 credits)	Fall	
SPH BS819^	Logistic regression (2 credits)	Fall	
SPH BS825	Advanced Methods in Infectious Disease Epidemiology (2 credits)	Fall	Previous coursework in Epidemiology

SPH BS828	Advanced Survival Analysis (2 cr)	Fall	BS 818
SPH BS831	Genomics Data Mining and Statistics (2 credits)	Spring	
SPH BS845	Applied Statistical Modeling and Programming in R	Fall	
SPH BS849	Bayesian Modeling for Biomedical Research and Public Health (2 cr)	Spring	
SPH BS851	Applied Statistics in Clinical Trials I	Fall/Spring/Sum	
SPH BS852^	Statistical Methods in Epidemiology	Fall/Spring	
SPH BS854	Bayesian Methods in Clinical Trials	Alt Falls (odd yrs)	BS 851
SPH BS858	Statistical Genetics I	Fall	
SPH BS859	Applied Genetic Analysis	Spring	
SPH BS860	Statistical Genetics II	Alt Springs (even yrs)	BS 858 or BS 859
SPH BS861	Applied Statistics in Clinical Trials II	Spring	BS 851
SPH BS862	Race and Racism in Biostatistics (2 cr)	Fall	

2. The remaining courses may be selected from the above series of courses or from the following Elective Courses (12 credits):

CAS MA511	Introduction to Analysis I	Fall	
CAS MA512	Introduction to Analysis II	Spring	MA 511
CAS MA555	Numerical Analysis I	Spring	
CAS MA556	Numerical Analysis II	Fall	MA 555
CAS MA568	Statistical Analysis of Point Process Data	Fall	MA 213, MA 214
CAS MA578	Bayesian Statistics	Spring	MA 581
CAS MA583	Introduction to Stochastic Practices	Spring	MA 581
CAS MA585	Time Series Modeling and Forecasting	Spring	MA 581
CAS MA588	Nonparametric Statistics	Spring	MA 582
CAS MA589	Computational Statistics	Fall	MA 581
CAS MA592***	Introduction to Causal Inference	Alt Fall (odd years)	MA 575 ^a
CAS MA685	Advanced Topics in Statistics	Fall/Spring	
CAS MA703	Statistical Analysis of Network Data	Sometimes Fall, sometimes Spring; alternating years	MA 575 ^a
CAS MA711	Real Analysis	Fall	MA 512
CAS MA750	Nonparametric and Semiparametric Data Modeling	Fall	MA 575 ^a , MA 581
CAS MA751*	Statistical Machine Learning	Spring	MA 575 ^a , MA 581
CAS MA752	Mathematical Foundations of Deep Learning	Spring	MA 581 and a course in Differential Equations

CAS MA777	Multiscale Methods for Stochastic Processes and Differential Equations	Fall	MA 581
CAS MA779	Probability Theory I	Fall	MA 511
CAS MA780	Probability Theory II	Spring	MA 711
CAS MA882	Seminar: Statistics	Spring	
CAS CS542*	Machine Learning	Fall, Spring, Sum	
SPH BS901**	Directed Study in Biostatistics	TBD	
SPH BS902**	Directed Research in Biostatistics	TBD	
SPH EP854 [‡]	Advanced Epidemiology	Fall	EP 770
SPH EP855 [‡]	Advanced Epidemiology Seminar: Issues in Study Design	Spring	EP 854

^a BS755 covers similar material to MA575 and should be acceptable as a substitute prerequisite.

[^]Students should not take both BS852 AND (BS818 and BS819)

* Only one of these two courses may be taken as an elective.

** Limit of 4 credits among the two. Post-Bachelor's PhD students may petition Co-Directors to allow more than 4 credits.

*** Only one of these two courses may be taken as an elective.

[‡] Only one of these two courses may count as an elective.

*** **Important note:** Please see course catalog on mybustudent for full course descriptions. Course semester offerings are subject to change; for the most up-to-date course offering information, please see the University Class Schedule on <https://mybustudent.bu.edu/>

Specialization Areas

Students in the PhD program may also select one of three areas of specialization by completing at least 12 credits from those listed within a specific area as part of their electives:

Analysis of Observational Studies	
SPH EP854	Advanced Epidemiology
SPH BS818	Basic Survival Analysis*
SPH BS819	Logistic Regression*
SPH BS828	Advanced Survival Analysis
SPH BS852	Statistical Methods in Epidemiology*
SPH BS810	Meta-analysis for Public Health and Medical Research
Clinical Trials	
SPH BS722	Design and Conduct of Clinical Trials
SPH BS810	Meta-analysis for Public Health and Medical Research
SPH BS851	Applied Statistics in Clinical Trials I
SPH BS854	Bayesian Methods in Clinical Trials
SPH BS861	Applied Statistics in Clinical Trials II
Statistical Genetics	
SPH BS831	Genomics Data Mining and Statistics
SPH BS858	Statistical Genetics I
SPH BS859	Applied Genetic Analysis
SPH BS860	Statistical Genetics II

*Students should take BS852 OR (BS818 and BS819), but not both.

Example Program for New PhD Students with no Relevant MS Degree (64 credits, 12 credits per semester):

Year 1 Fall (12 credits)	Year 1 Spring (13 credits)	Year 2 Fall (12 credits)	Year 2 Spring (12 credits)	Year 3 Fall (8 credits)	Year 3 Spring (8 credits)
MA581	MA582	BS755	MA782	Elective 4	Elective 6
BS805 or BS806	EP770 or Elective 1	MA781	BS853	Elective 5	Elective 7
EP770 or Elective 1	Elective 2 (or BS853 or BS857)	Elective 3	BS857		
PH700	EK800		Take Applied Qual in May/June	Take Theory Qual in September	Enter Thesis phase at end of Spring term

Notes:

- 1) Many students find that taking MA782, BS853, and BS857 all in one semester is difficult to manage in addition to their Research Assistantship. We recommend that BS857 be taken in Spring 1, and BS853 in Spring 2.
- 2) Some students may choose to take only 8 credits in their first 4 semesters, but this will extend their coursework phase, even if they take courses in the summer. *Note also that summer course offerings that are appropriate for PhD students are limited.* **Students choosing to do this should focus on completing required courses in the first 2 years so that qualifying exams can still be taken in Spring Year 2 and Fall Year 3.** An example schedule with 8 credits per semester is shown below
- 3) Training grant students should take at least 12 credits in their Year 1 Fall, and may want to take 14, when they are not yet doing research rotations.

Example Program for New PhD Students with no Relevant MS Degree (64 credits, 8 credits per semester and summer coursework):

Year 1 Fall (8 cr)	Year 1 Spring (9 cr)	Year 1 Summer (4 cr)	Year 2 Fall (8 cr)	Year 2 Spring (8 cr)	Year 2 Summer (4 cr)	Year 3 Fall (8 cr)	Year 3 Spring (8 cr)	Year 4 Fall (8 cr)
MA581	MA582	Elective 1	BS755	MA782	Elective 2	EP770	Elective 4	Elective 6
BS805 or BS806	BS857		MA781	BS853		Elective 3	Elective 5	Elective 7
PH700	EK800			Take Applied Qual in May		Take Theory Qual in September		Enter Thesis phase at end of Fall term

Example Program for New PhD Students with Relevant Biostatistics or Statistics MS Degree That Includes Probability and Statistics Sequence (32-36 credits):

Year 1 Fall (12 credits)	Year 1 Spring (9 credits)	Year 2 Fall (8 credits)	Year 2 Spring (8 credits)
MA781	MA782	Elective 2	BS853
BS755 or Elective	EP770 or Elective 1	BS755 or Elective 3	BS857
EP770 or Elective 1	EK800		
PH700		Take Theory qual in September	Take Applied Qual in May

Notes:

- 1) This schedule assumes BS805/BS806 is waived
- 2) If BS853 or BS857 is waived, electives may take their place

ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK (OPTIONAL)

BUSPH offers courses in grant writing, teaching pedagogy, and mentored teaching experiences.

- SPH [PH885](#) and [PH886](#) ("Grant Writing for Doctoral Students I and II") are a pair of 2-credit courses to support BUSPH doctoral students/candidates in writing grant proposals in a systematic fashion under faculty guidance and with peer input. Students interested in developing a grant proposal to fund their thesis work (F31, F99) or prepare for postdoctoral grant writing are encouraged to take this course series after completing their required courses.
- PH895 And PH896 ("Pedagogy and Curriculum Development" and "Mentored Teaching Practicum") are a pair of 2-credit courses that introduce BUSPH PhD students to fundamentals of teaching. Students interested in a career that includes teaching are encouraged to take this course series after completing their required courses. If desired, these courses may be taken for credit after entering thesis phase with approval from the graduate school.

PHD ADVISING SYSTEM

Academic Advisor. Upon entry into the Biostatistics Program, each student will be appointed an Academic Advisor from the Biostatistics faculty. This person will act as the student's primary academic advisor and a general point of contact within the department until the student identifies a dissertation advisor.

RA or TG Advisor. In addition to the academic advisor, each doctoral student will be assigned either a Research Assistantship (RA) advisor or a Training Grant (TG) advisor at the start of the program. This advisor will oversee the assistantship or training grant placement for the upcoming year. Students should work with their RA/TG advisor in addition to the academic advisor when finalizing a course schedule, in case there are classes that would be particularly relevant to the Assistantship or Training Grant that the RA/TG advisor recommends.

Dissertation Advisor. Each PhD student will identify one or more research advisors within 6 months of entering dissertation phase. Students are encouraged to identify their research advisors early in the program, based upon published research, academic advising, teaching,

working group affiliation, or other criteria relevant to the student's research interests. Dissertation advisors are selected by mutual agreement between the student and advisor. Once identified, the student should notify the Program Administrators and the Program Directors of their dissertation advisor, and this person should be clearly listed on all dissertation progress updates. The primary dissertation advisor may be a faculty member from outside the Biostatistics Department if approved by GRS; in this case, the second reader on the dissertation committee must be a Biostatistics faculty member.

PHD PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES

Residency Requirements: The minimum residency requirement is the equivalent of 2 consecutive regular semesters of full-time graduate study at Boston University. Students who have completed their course requirements must register each subsequent semester for BS980 Continuing Study/Dissertation Seminar until they have completed all requirements for the degree. Upon written petition and appropriate cause, students will be allowed up to 2 semesters of leave of absence.

Students must be registered in both the semester in which the last degree requirements are completed and in the preceding semester. For example, if a student plans to complete their degree requirements in Spring of 2027, they must be registered in both Spring 2027 and Fall 2026. If a student plans to defend in Summer 2027, they must be registered in Spring 2027 and Summer 2027. Any student who plans to defend in early fall should meet with GRS Records to discuss their plans.

A full explanation of GRS residency requirements can be found [here](#).

Grade Requirements: Students must earn a grade of B- or better in all courses applied to the degree. GRS policy is that students must maintain satisfactory academic progress, which includes maintain a [GPA of 3.0](#).

RA requirement: The research assistantship is an important part of PhD student training and students are expected to remain in good standing in their RA work. This means:

- Working 20 hours a week and communicating with their mentor if there are any needed adjustments to the schedule.
- Communicate clearly with mentor and adhere to communication expectations of the RA mentor.
- Attend required meetings for the RA and communicate clearly in advance if there are issues with attendance.
- Engage intellectually with the RA work and work toward developing independence and leadership in this role.

Students should work closely with their RA advisors, academic advisor, and, as needed, the program directors to appropriately manage their RA commitment with the academic requirements of the PhD program successfully.

Seminar and Presentation Attendance Requirement:

1. **Seminars:** All PhD students must attend at least 4 qualifying seminars per semester (fall and spring). Eligible events include: Biostatistics Lunchtime Seminar Series, Statistical Genetics Seminar Series, working group meetings, Biostatistics Student Association (BSA)

and Boston University Student Chapter of the American Statistical Association (BUSCASA) seminars, Center for Health Data Science (CHDS) seminars, Department of Mathematics and Statistics seminars, and biostatistics-related seminars of the Boston University Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI). A sample of upcoming events that count towards this requirement will be included in the departmental newsletter throughout the academic year. Many of these seminars are hybrid. Online attendance will count for 0.5 points of qualifying attendance. In person attendance will count for 1 point of qualifying attendance. Any combination of in person and hybrid attendance may be used as long as the final attendance count is 4 or above.

2. **Thesis Progress Presentations and Defenses:** Doctoral students must also attend doctoral student dissertation presentation sessions each semester (fall and spring). Both the regularly scheduled thesis progress presentations and dissertation defenses can be used to fulfill this requirement. PhD students receive Outlook invitations for both. **Students in the coursework phase** must attend at least one doctoral student presentation session each semester (fall and spring). **Students in the dissertation phase** must attend at least three doctoral student presentation sessions each semester (fall and spring), not including their own presentation session. In person attendance is HIGHLY encouraged to support your fellow students. Online options will be available to those who cannot attend in person. Online attendance will count for 0.5 points of qualifying attendance. In person attendance will count for 1 point of qualifying attendance. Any combination of in person and hybrid attendance may be used as long as the final attendance count is 1 for students in coursework phase and 3 (not counting your own) for students in the dissertation phase.
3. **Distinguished Alumni Award.** All doctoral students are required to attend the Distinguished Alumni award presentation every fall semester. Attendance will be taken.
4. **L. Adrienne Cupples Award.** All doctoral students are required to attend the L. Adrienne Cupples Award presentation and associated student meeting every spring semester. Attendance will be taken.

Track your attendance [here](#).

The Program Administrators will track compliance with these requirements, which are also reviewed by the Graduate Education Committee. Students who do not attend the required number of events each semester will be required to make these requirements up in the following semester.

[Responsible Conduct of Research \(RCR\) Requirement](#)

The Biostatistics department requires all doctoral students to complete the University's Responsible Conduct of Research training. The University will email students information about the training and a link to the online training modules. RCR consists of two steps:

- **Step 1: Complete [CITI RCR Training](#)**, which consists of self-guided online modules and quizzes, offered through the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Program.
- **Step 2: Complete [ENG EK800](#), a 1 credit, non-tuition bearing course**
This course is offered in fall and spring semester and fulfills the National Science Foundation and NIH requirements.

SPH PH700 Foundations of Public Health

All MS and PhD Biostatistics students must complete the zero-credit, self-paced, online course [SPH PH700 Foundations of Public Health](#). PH700 is an online [Blackboard](#) course that consists of 17 self-paced modules, which cover foundational knowledge in public health that prepare students to fully engage in their program of study. PH700 fulfills criteria for foundational public health knowledge, as required of all graduate students by SPH's accrediting body, the Council on Education for Public Health ([CEPH](#)). You will be automatically enrolled in PH 700 and it must be completed prior to your first semester at SPH.

Awarding the MS Degree to Doctoral Students

Students accepted to the doctoral program without a prior MS or MA degree, can be awarded the MS in biostatistics degree after passing their PhD qualifying exams. If a student wishes to be awarded an MS degree, they must complete the Master's [Intent to Graduate form](#) with GRS.

Qualifying Examinations

The doctoral candidate must satisfactorily pass two comprehensive written examinations. These will require proficiency in material covered in the nine core courses. Students can use one reference sheet (printer size [8.5in x 11in] or smaller, handwritten or typed) for both examinations. The reference sheet will be collected at the end of the exam.

The Statistical Theory Qualifying Examination is given each year early in the fall semester. Candidates must answer questions based on material covered in MA781 and MA782. The PhD Applied Biostatistics Qualifying Examination is given each year in late May. Candidates must satisfactorily answer questions based on material covered in BS853, BS755, BS805/BS806, and BS857 with one question from each.

Students are strongly urged to meet with their advisors to discuss preparation and timing for the Qualifying Examinations. Students are expected to take the required coursework for the exams within the first 2 years, and to take qualifying exam as soon as they have completed the required coursework for that exam. For students entering the program with a relevant master's degree, this means that theory exam should be taken at the start of the second year. The Applied exam must be taken no later than the end of the 2nd year, but ideally in the first year. Students without a relevant MS degree should take the applied exam no later than the end of the second year and the theory exam no later than the start of the third year. Students are allowed at most two attempts to pass a Qualifying Exam.

Access to Department

All Biostatistics doctoral students will have after-hours access to the Biostatistics Department on the 3rd floor of the Crosstown building, to use the student workstations outside of normal business hours.

Policies

All students must adhere to all Boston University Graduate School of Arts & Sciences [academic policies](#); and the [University's Policies](#). Note that this information [may change](#) at any time.

Fellowships

PhD students are eligible to apply for external fellowships, such as the F31 and F99 fellowship from the NIH. The department is very supportive of these fellowships as they provide valuable training and opportunities for students. Successful candidates typically apply when they are

completing coursework, have done preliminary research on a dissertation topic, and have identified a strong and experienced mentoring team.

To ensure adequate departmental support of the application, students who intend to apply for a fellowship are required to notify the program co-directors and their RA supervisor, if applicable, of their intent to apply at least three months prior to the application deadline to receive approval to apply. The applicant must supply information on the proposed research topic, faculty supervisors, and timeline for submission of the application. Students with successful applications will work with the program directors to ensure a smooth transition from their current funding source upon funding of the fellowship.

PhD Student Parental Leave

All stipend PhD students in good academic standing are paid parental leave for the birth or adoption of a child. Please see Article 24 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with BUGWU for more information.

The student must inform their department chair or program director at least 30 days prior to the start of the semester in which the leave will occur and submit the [Notification of Childbirth and Adoption Accommodation form](#) to grsaid@bu.edu.

Please see [Boston University's Childbirth and Adoption Accommodations for PhD Students](#) for further details.

PhD Students & Outside Summer Internships

PhD students who wish to do an external internship over the summer must complete the following steps:

1. Discuss the internship with all advisors, including the RA advisor and dissertation advisor (if the student has not yet identified a dissertation advisor, this would be the academic advisor).
 - The internship should be relevant to dissertation research &/or dissertation preparation.
 - International students must demonstrate that the internship is integral to their dissertation; see step 4 below.
2. Obtain the RA advisor's approval to pause RA work for the duration of the internship.
3. Inform the co-directors of your intention to apply for internships, cc'ing your advisor to show their approval
4. Apply for internships and secure an offer. Note that to be approved, the internship pay must be equal to or greater than the pay you would receive as an RA during the same time period.
5. Complete the [Biostatistics Summer Internship Form](#). This requires the offer letter.
 - The co-directors will inform you when your internship is officially approved.
6. **International Students:** Work with BU's International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) to obtain [Curricular Practical Training \(CPT\)](#) authorization.
 - The CPT authorization application process involves the student completing a form and obtaining an approval letter from their dissertation advisor (the letter must be signed by both the dissertation advisor and one of the Biostats PhD Co-Directors).
 - The paperwork must demonstrate that the internship is directly related to the student's dissertation work and that it is a unique opportunity which cannot be accomplished using BU facilities.

- The dissertation advisor certifies that they will monitor the student's off-campus research.
- If the student is still in the coursework phase and does not have a dissertation advisor yet, the student can work with their academic advisor or RA advisor, to establish the connection between the outside summer internship and the student's course of study and prospective dissertation topic.

Dissertation Requirements

Transition towards the Dissertation Phase: Upon successful completion of the Qualifying Examinations and all coursework, doctoral students select dissertation advisors who will guide them through their dissertation research. Prior to meeting the requirements to officially enter the dissertation phase, students may begin doing proto-research with a potential dissertation advisor. This would include limited work to identify and begin developing a research topic for the dissertation. This must be done with the guidance of the student's academic advisor, to ensure that this work does not detract from successfully completing coursework and passing the qualifying exams.

Dissertation Phase: Students enter dissertation phase after completing all their required and elective coursework and passing both Qualifying Exams.

Auditing courses: Students in dissertation phase may officially audit one class per semester during the academic year (i.e., not including Summer Term). More information on the GRS Auditing Courses Policy is available [here](#).

Students in dissertation phase are required to fulfill additional requirements as outlined below.

Dissertation: The PhD dissertation provides students with the opportunity to design, conduct, and report on independent, original research in biostatistics. The dissertation consists of original research in the development of statistical methodology for biomedical or epidemiologic applications. The dissertation must be an original contribution to the body of knowledge in biostatistics. It is expected that the dissertation content will address at least one relevant question in statistical methodology and will, at a minimum, pose a new approach, extend an existing approach, or provide novel application of an existing method. Simulation studies and simulation-based methods comparisons without methodological development or a theoretical component are not sufficient. Additionally, simulations are not required and use of real data sets in combination with theoretical work may suffice. At least one manuscript from the dissertation work must be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal for publication prior to defense of the thesis. The article must conform to the requirements of a specific statistical or otherwise appropriate journal. The dissertation committee must confirm that this submission has occurred prior to the defense being scheduled.

Dissertation format: The dissertation must meet all [formatting requirements specified by GRS](#). Within these requirements, two approaches to the dissertation are allowed. The first is a single body of work comprehensively addressing one problem. The second format consists of two or three problems in a single area of research. For either format, the content of the dissertation should be at least equal to the content of three journal articles. The format of the dissertation (single body of work versus multiple related problems) should be agreed upon by consensus of the student, the primary reader and the committee members.

Dissertation Prospectus: Each doctoral student will work with a primary dissertation advisor and committee to develop a dissertation prospectus which is required by GRS. [The Prospectus](#)

[approval form](#) must be submitted to GRS **at least six months prior to the dissertation defense**. When the prospectus has been approved by the student's dissertation committee, the student should submit the form and prospectus to the program directors for approval and signature and then submit the signed form to GRS with a cc: to the Program Administrators.

GRS has limited specific guidance for the format and content of the dissertation prospectus. The dissertation prospectus, generally a formal paper not exceeding 20 double-spaced (or 10 single-spaced) pages of 12-point font, should be completed before the more extensive phase of dissertation research is undertaken. The readers, the Director of Graduate Studies/Program Director must approve the final draft.

In addition, the following are recommendations for the dissertation prospectus for biostatistics. This document should have a well-developed background and literature review for the dissertation projects. Methods and results for the first project can be included in the prospectus. The document should outline the scope of the dissertation and the projects that the student will complete, as agreed upon by the dissertation committee.

Dissertation Progress: In addition to regular meetings with the primary thesis advisor, Doctoral students in the dissertation phase of the program are required to meet with their dissertation committee **at least twice per year**. It is beneficial to have at least three committee members in attendance at each meeting. Progress on the dissertation will be closely monitored by the committee and co-directors through the [Dissertation Progress Update Form](#) that is filled out by the thesis committee and submitted by the primary advisor to the Program Directors cc the Program Administrators at least once each year, and an annual SPH Doctoral Progress Report that is submitted by the student in June every year. Any student who fails to meet with their committee and submit the dissertation progress updates on time will be prevented from registering for the subsequent semester until the progress update has been submitted. See detailed timeline at the end of this document.

Doctoral Dissertation Progress Presentations: Presentations of doctoral student dissertation research in progress will be held regularly throughout the fall and spring semesters. Students in dissertation phase must (a) present the status of their dissertation work to students and faculty at least once per year and (b) attend at least 3 other doctoral dissertation presentation sessions or dissertation defenses per semester (fall and spring). **There are no exceptions.** Failure to comply may lead to a delayed graduation.

Final Oral Defense Examination: Each doctoral candidate will present an oral defense of the dissertation before a four-member (or more) doctoral committee.

Time Limits: The PhD program must be completed within seven years after the first registration for doctoral study. All doctoral students are expected to adhere to Biostatistics Program guidelines regarding the following milestones in their programs of study toward degree completion:

- Successfully complete all core courses no later than 3 years after matriculation.
- Attempt both qualifying exams no later than the spring of the 2nd year (for those with relevant prior MS degree) or beginning of the 3rd year (for those without relevant MS degree). **Note:** students need permission from the co-directors to vary from this expected timeline.
- Pass at least one (Theoretical or Applied) Biostatistics Qualifying Examination no later than 3 years after matriculation.
- Pass both Qualifying Exams no later than 4 years after matriculation.

- Establish the members of the dissertation committee no later than 6 months after passing the final qualifying exam and completing required coursework.

Dissertation Committee Requirements

Students can start meeting with potential thesis advisors and identifying a thesis topic as they are nearing completion of their coursework and qualifying exams. However, priority should be given to completing those requirements.

It is important to first identify your primary thesis advisor. This can be your RA advisor, or another Biostatistics faculty member. The full thesis committee must be composed of a total of four or more members, including at least a first and second reader (first reader is the primary thesis advisor) and at least two additional committee members who serve as either designated readers or additional committee members. We strongly recommend students identify three members of their committee within the first six months of being in thesis phase. Typically, the Biostatistics thesis committees consist of at least 4 faculty: 3 or 4 biostatistics faculty and may also include an additional faculty from another department. When students are approaching their thesis defense, the committee also must designate a chair for the thesis defense. The chair cannot be the primary thesis advisor. If a committee member is a visiting, adjunct, or emeritus faculty of Boston University, BU employees not of professional rank, or from outside of Boston University, a [Special Services Appointment form](#) must be completed and approved by the Dean of GRS. This form is due at least three weeks before the scheduled dissertation defense.

PHD GRADUATION

Please review the detailed graduation timeline and procedures on the [GRS Graduation Information webpage](#). Note that several steps, including the [Intent to Graduate](#) form, must be taken well in advance of the intended graduation date. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of all graduation procedures.

Doctoral students in Biostatistics are eligible and invited to participate in both the GRS and SPH Commencement ceremonies. **Many students choose to participate in only the SPH ceremony**, as this is the ceremony Biostatistics Faculty typically attend. Students must register in advance for each Commencement ceremony in which they plan to participate. Information and instructions about Commencement will be sent directly from SPH and GRS. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of all Commencement ceremony procedures.

Section

4

Administrative Timeline & Progress to Degree

TIMELINE TO DOCTORAL DEGREE

Students are responsible for monitoring the progress of their program with the help of their academic advisor. The following are steps students should take to completing their PhD Dissertation. Students should direct questions to the Co-Directors or the Program Administrators.

	<u>Students with relevant MS degree</u>	<u>Students without an MS degree</u>
Years 1-2	○ Complete all coursework ○ Take all qualifying exams	○ Take all courses required for qualifying exams ○ Take applied qualifying exam at end of second year
Year 3	○ Enter dissertation phase	○ Take theory qualifying exam in fall ○ Complete elective courses
	<u>All PhD students in Dissertation Phase</u>	
Within 6 months of entering dissertation phase	Identify dissertation advisor, topic, and timeline to completion	
In the first year of dissertation phase	Identify full thesis committee. ○ A Committee consists of at least three members and the Chair. If any committee member does not have a BU faculty appointment, the student must file a Special Service Appointment form with the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.	
Every year	○ Participate in RA feedback process each semester. ○ Meet with full thesis committee at least twice a year. Your primary advisor must submit the Biostatistics Thesis Committee Report Form after one of these meetings each year. ○ Present PhD thesis progress. The title should be sent to Kathy Lunetta (klunetta@bu.edu) at least one week before the scheduled presentation. Send your slides to Kathy and cc the Program Administrators. ○ Attend at least 3 doctoral student dissertation presentations (not including your own) in fall and spring semesters ○ Complete annual SPH progress form (usually due July 1)	

7-9 months prior to defense	Prepare Dissertation Prospectus and submit it to committee for feedback and approval. Submit approved prospectus and signed Dissertation Prospectus Approval Form to GRS Records and cc the Program Administrators at least 6 months prior to defense. This can be completed much farther in advance of the defense. Review dissertation formatting requirements and sample pages.
4-5 months prior to graduation	Submit Intent to Graduate form to GRS ensuring to follow the deadlines set forth by GRS. If a student started in a 64 credit degree program and wishes to be awarded an MS degree and have not yet requested the degree, they must also complete the Master's Intent to Graduate form.
3 months prior to defense	First draft of dissertation should be submitted to readers.
1 month prior to defense	Submit one article based on the dissertation to a peer-reviewed journal for consideration of publication and be listed as first author. The dissertation advisor must sign off on fulfillment of this requirement. (This can be completed much farther in advance of the defense if ready sooner). Submit dissertation abstract to committee for approval. Schedule individual meetings with members of the committee to discuss the content and presentation of material in the dissertation.
3 weeks prior to defense	Notify the Program Administrators of the defense date and schedule the defense room. This can be done much sooner if know you will be defending. Make sure to follow the timeline outlined on the GRS Graduation Information Page Submit a formatted draft of your dissertation to GRS at grsrec@bu.edu. They will inform you if there are any edits that will be required. Provide a final copy of dissertation to each member of the committee. Select a Chair from the members of your committee. The Chair must be a member of the Biostatistics program faculty (Math or Biostatistics Department) and cannot be the primary thesis advisor. Appropriate paperwork will be sent to Chair in advance of the defense.
Day of defense	Prepare and bring the Report of Examination form for your Chair. Present dissertation using PowerPoint or similar electronic presentation. Make sure your report of examination form is complete and signed and ensure it gets sent to the Academic Program Administrator and GRS at grsrec@bu.edu.

After defense	Submit final approved dissertation electronically to the ETD Administrator. Submit a final electronic copy of the dissertation to the Co-Directors of the Program. Complete the PhD Contact Information Form Pay the Library Dissertation Processing Fee (\$115) Submit a copy of your dissertation approval page to GRS via DocuSign (this is the third page of your dissertation) Complete the BU Doctoral Exit survey that will be sent to you after submitting your paperwork. Complete the second Exit survey (The Survey of Earned Doctorates) which will be linked at the end of the first survey. Both of these surveys must be complete for graduation.
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Section

5

Professional and Career Development

The Graduate Program in Biostatistics in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences offers a seminar series on topics relating to professional development and career planning for both Master and Doctoral degree students. Topics of discussion and activities include how to negotiate salaries and resources, ethical and professional issues in biostatistical practice, how to present the key concepts and results of one's work on a dissertation or research project, planning one's career path, the review of curricula vitae/resumes, and the conduct of mock job interviews.

In addition, the Boston University Center for Career Development offers a wide range of workshops, seminars, and trainings that are open to graduate students from all programs and are available from the student's first day in a program through graduation and beyond (<http://www.bu.edu/careers/connect>).

The University's Office of Career Planning and Professional Development for Doctoral Students (<https://www.bu.edu/grad/cd-pd/phd/>) provides focused resources for doctoral students that help guide students in creating and refining their Individual Development Plans (IDPs). BU additionally offers several programs to provide dissertation writing support (<https://www.bu.edu/erc/grad/gws/>).

As a joint sponsor of the Graduate Program in Biostatistics, the Career and Practicum Office of the School of Public Health (<https://www.bu.edu/sph/careers>) also provides support for our Master and Doctoral degree students and is a major connecting point for organizations in health care and biomedical research seeking to hire graduates from our Programs.

As a long-standing and successful program at Boston University that integrates education and research between the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Public Health, the Biostatistics Graduate Program supports its students in planning for careers in industry and government as well as in academia.

Section**6****Course Descriptions**

BIOSTATISTICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Comprehensive and up to date course descriptions can be found on:

<https://www.bu.edu/phpbin/course-search/index.php>.

Or on the Boston University Bulletin:

<https://www.bu.edu/academics/bulletin/>

Section

7

Biostatistics Program Faculty

The Department of Biostatistics faculty is committed to the roles of teacher and mentor both inside and outside of the classroom. Their research brings depth and a real-life context to the classroom. As examples, the department's faculty have analyzed the multigenerational risk factors that contribute to heart disease, which led to a predictive tool for physicians to determine treatment strategies for patients with cardiovascular disease. In partnership with other academic institutions, members of the department have isolated and identified key factors that contribute to higher incidences of breast cancer and other diseases in African-American women. In addition, the department has designed and implemented an important comparative study that pinpoints risk factors for Alzheimer's disease. Members of the department are also actively engaged in clinical trials and methods for public health surveillance, designed to improve clinical treatments and aid the public health delivery system to identify disease hotspots.

Faculty bios for primary, secondary, and adjunct Biostatistics faculty can be found [here](#) and information about faculty research can be found on the [Research](#) section of our website.

The Mathematics and Statistics Faculty listing is [here](#).

Biostatistics MS Degree Audit Sheet (32 credits)

I. MS Degree Required Courses: Six courses (24 credits)	Semester Completed	Grade Earned	Credits Earned
SPH PH 700 Foundation of Public Health			
SPH BS 755 Theory of Linear Models for Biostatistics or MA 575 Linear Models			
CAS/ MET MA581 Probability			
CAS/ MET MA582 Mathematical Statistics			
SPH EP770 Concepts and Methods in Epidemiology			
SPH BS805 Intermediate statistical programming in SAS for applied linear models or SPH BS806 Statistical Learning with Applications in R			
SPH BS852 Statistical Methods in Epidemiology Or SPH BS 818 Basic Survival Analysis AND BS 819 Logistic Regression			
SPH BS880 Capstone Course			
SPH PH749 Career PREP			
II. MS Degree Electives: Any two (8 credits)	Semester Completed	Grade Earned	Credits Earned
CAS MA: 576, 583, 585, 588, 589, 592 CAS MA: 685, 751 [#] , 781*, 782*, 861*, 881*, 882 CAS CS: 542 [#]			
SPH BS: 722, 728, 775, 807, 810, 818, 819, 821, 825, 828, 831, 845, 849, 851, 853, 854, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 901**, 902**			
SPH EP 854*			
[#] Only one of these two courses may count as an elective. * Must obtain permission from academic advisor to take this elective. ** Limit of 4 credits among the two.			

MS Requirements Checklist:

- ☐ Credits total: 32 MS graduate credits or approved transfer courses.
- ☐ Grade of B- or better in all courses applied to the MS
- ☐ Any course waivers or transfer credit approved
- ☐ All incomplete classes completed, and grades posted
- ☐ Submitted graduation application to GRS (2-3 months prior to commencement)

Biostatistics PhD Degree Audit Sheet

I. Post- BA PhD Required Courses: Nine courses (36 credits)	Semester Completed	Grade Earned	Credits Earned
SPH PH 700 Foundation of Public Health			
SPH BS 755 Theory of Linear Models for Biostatistics or CAS MA 575 Linear Models			
CAS/ MET MA581 Probability			
CAS/ MET MA582 Mathematical Statistics			
SPH EP770 Concepts and Methods in Epidemiology			
SPH BS805 Intermediate statistical programming in SAS for applied linear models or SPH BS806 Statistical Learning with Applications in R			
SPH BS853 Generalized Linear Models with Applications or CAS MA 576 Generalized Linear Models			
SPH BS857 Analysis of Correlated Data			
GRS MA781 Estimation Theory			
GRS MA782 Hypothesis Testing			
II. PhD Biostatistics Electives: At least 12 credits of the following Biostatistics Courses:	Semester Completed	Grade Earned	Credits Earned
SPH BS: 722, 728, 775, 807, 810, 818, 819, 821, 825, 828, 831, 845, 849, 851, 852, 854, 856, 858, 859, 860, 861			
III. PhD Additional Elective Courses: The remaining courses may be selected from the above series of courses or from the following Elective Courses. One elective may be in the biological sciences [#] (12 credits):	Semester Completed	Grade Earned	Credits Earned
CAS MA: 511, 512, 555, 556, 576, 578, 583, 585, 588, 589, 592, 685; CAS MA: 703, 711, 750, 751*, 752, 779, 780, 882 ; CAS CS: 542* SPH EP: 854 [‡] , 855 [‡] SPH BS: 901**, 902**			
* Only one of these two courses may be taken as an elective ‡ Only one of these two courses may count as an elective. ** Limit of 4 credits among the two. Post-Bachelor's PhD students may petition Co-Directors to allow more than 4 credits. # Given the large number of biology courses, a comprehensive list is not provided here. Please contact the Program Co-Directors to seek permission for a specific course in the biological sciences.			
IV. Qualifying Exams	Date of Completion	Grade Earned	
Applied Qualifying Exam			
Theory Qualifying Exam			

PhD Requirements Checklist:

- ☐ Total of 32-64 PhD graduate credits or approved transfer courses
- ☐ Grade of B- or better in all courses applied to the PhD
- ☐ All course waivers or transfer credit approved
- ☐ All incomplete classes completed, and grades posted
- ☐ Attended and presented at Doctoral Student Presentation Seminars
- ☐ Submitted graduation application to GRS (2-3 months prior to commencement)