Department of Statistics

Chris Genovese, Department Head
Rebecca Nugent, Director of Undergraduate Studies
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Department Office: Baker Hall 132

Uncertainty is inescapable: randomness, measurement error, deception, and incomplete or missing information complicate all our lives. Statistics is the science and art of making predictions and decisions in the face of uncertainty. Statistical issues are central to big questions in public policy, law, medicine, industry, computing, technology, finance, and science. Indeed, the tools of Statistics apply to problems in almost every area of human activity where data are collected.

Statisticians must master diverse skills in computing, mathematics, decision making, forecasting, interpretation of complicated data, and design of meaningful comparisons. Moreover, statisticians must learn to collaborate effectively with people in other fields and, in the process, to understand the substance of these other fields. For all these reasons, Statistics students are highly sought-after in the marketplace.

Recent Statistics majors at Carnegie Mellon have taken jobs at leading companies in many fields, including the National Economic Research Association, Boeing, Morgan Stanley, Deloitte, Rosetta Marketing Group, Nielsen, Proctor and Gamble, Accenture, and Goldman Sachs. Other students have taken research positions at the National Security Agency, the U.S. Census Bureau, and the Science and Technology Policy Institute or worked for Teach for America. Many of our students have also gone on to graduate study at some of the top programs in the country including Carnegie Mellon, the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, Johns Hopkins, University of Michigan, Stanford University, Emory University, Yale University, Columbia University, and Georgia Tech.

The Department and Faculty

The Department of Statistics at Carnegie Mellon University is world-renowned for its contributions to statistical theory and practice. Research in the department runs the gamut from pure mathematics to the hottest frontiers of science. Current research projects are helping make fundamental advances in neuroscience, cosmology, seismology, finance, and genetics.

The faculty members are recognized around the world for their expertise and have garnered many prestigious awards and honors. (For example, three members of the faculty have been awarded the COPSS medal, the highest honor given by professional statistical societies.) At the same time, the faculty is firmly dedicated to undergraduate education. The entire faculty, junior and senior, teach courses at all levels. The faculty are accessible and are committed to involving undergraduates in research.

The Department augments all these strengths with a friendly, energetic working environment and exceptional computing resources. Talented graduate students join the department from around the world, and add a unique dimension to the department's intellectual life. Faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates interact regularly.

How to Take Part

There are many ways to get involved in Statistics at Carnegie Mellon:

- The Bachelor of Science in Statistics in the Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences (DC) is a broad-based, flexible program that helps you master both the theory and practice of Statistics. The program can be tailored to prepare you for later graduate study in Statistics or to complement your interests in almost any field, including Psychology, Physics, Biology, History, Business, Information Systems, or Computer Science.
- The Minor (or Additional Major) in Statistics is a useful complement to a (primary) major in another Department or College. Almost every field of inquiry must grapple with statistical problems, and the tools of statistical theory and data analysis you will develop in the Statistics minor will give you a critical edge.
- The Bachelor of Science in Economics and Statistics provides an interdisciplinary course of study aimed at students with a strong interest in the empirical analysis of economic data, jointly administered by the Department of Statistics and the Undergraduate Economics Program, the major's curriculum provides students with a solid foundation in the theories and methods of both fields. (See Dietrich College Interdepartmental Majors as well as later in this section)
- The Bachelor of Science in Statistics and Machine Learning is a program housed in the Department of Statistics in which students take courses focused on skills in computing, mathematics, statistical theory, and their interpretation and display of complex data. The program is geared toward students interested in statistical computation, data science, and “big data” problems.

- The Statistics Concentration and the Operations Research and Statistics Concentration in the Mathematical Sciences Major (see Department of Mathematical Sciences) are jointly administered by the Department of Mathematical Sciences and the Department of Statistics.
- There are several ongoing exciting research projects in the Department of Statistics, and the department enthusiastically seeks to involve undergraduates in this work. Both majors and non-majors are welcome.
- Non-majors are eligible to take most of our courses, and indeed, they are required to do so by many programs on campus. Such courses offer one way to learn more about the Department of Statistics and the field in general.

Curriculum

Statistics consists of two intertwined threads of inquiry: Statistical Theory and Data Analysis. The former uses probability theory to build and analyze mathematical models of data in order to devise methods for making effective predictions and decisions in the face of uncertainty. The latter involves techniques for extracting insights from complicated data, designs for accurate measurement and comparison, and methods for checking the validity of theoretical assumptions. Statistical Theory informs Data Analysis and vice versa. The Statistics Department curriculum follows both of these threads and helps the student develop the complementary skills required.

Below, we describe the requirements for the Major in Statistics and the different categories within our basic curriculum, followed by the requirements for the Major in Economics and Statistics, the Major in Statistics and Machine Learning, and the Minor in Statistics.

Note: We recommend that you use the information provided below as a general guideline, and then schedule a meeting with a Statistics Undergraduate Advisor (email: acadcoord@stat.cmu.edu) to discuss the requirements in more detail, and build a program that is tailored to your strengths and interests.

B.S. in Statistics

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Faculty Advisor: Howard Selman
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Students in the Bachelor of Science program develop and master a wide array of skills in computing, mathematics, statistical theory, and the interpretation and display of complex data. In addition, Statistics majors gain experience in applying statistical tools to real problems in other fields and learn the nuances of interdisciplinary collaboration. The requirements for the Major in Statistics are detailed below and are organized by categories #1-#7.

1. Mathematical Foundations (Prerequisites)

Mathematics is the language in which statistical models are described and analyzed, and some experience with basic calculus and linear algebra is an important component for anyone pursuing a program of study in Statistics.

Calculus*: Complete one of the following three sequences of mathematics courses at Carnegie Mellon, each of which provides sufficient preparation in calculus:

**Sequence 1**

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<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21-111</td>
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<tr>
<td>21-112</td>
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and one of the following:

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tr>
<td>21-256</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>21-259</td>
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**Sequence 2**

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<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21-120</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-256</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

...
Data analysis is the art and science of extracting insight from data. The art lies in knowing which displays or techniques will reveal the most interesting features of a complicated data set. The science lies in understanding the various techniques and the assumptions on which they rely. Both aspects require practice to master.

The Beginning Data Analysis courses give a hands-on introduction to the art and science of data analysis. The courses cover similar topics but differ slightly in the examples they emphasize. 36-201 draws examples from many fields and satisfies the DC College Core Requirement in Statistical Reasoning. It is therefore the recommended course for students in the College. (Note: A score of 4 or 5 on the Advanced Placement (AP) Exam in Statistics may be used to waive this requirement). Other courses emphasize examples in business (36-207), engineering and architecture (36-220), and the laboratory sciences (36-247).

The Intermediate Data Analysis courses build on the principles and methods covered in the introductory course, and more fully explore specific types of data analysis methods in more depth. The Advanced Data Analysis courses draw on students' previous experience with data analysis and understanding of statistical theory to develop advanced, more sophisticated methods. These core courses involve extensive analysis of real data with emphasis on developing the oral and writing skills needed for communicating results.

**Sequence 1 (For students beginning their freshman or sophomore year)**

**Beginning**

Choose one of the following courses:

- 36-201 Statistical Reasoning and Practice 9
- 36-70-207 Probability and Statistics for Business Applications 9
- 36-220 Engineering Statistics and Quality Control 9
- 36-247 Statistics for Lab Sciences 9

*Or extra data analysis course in Statistics

Note: Students who enter the program with 36-225 or 36-226 should discuss options with an advisor. Any 36-300 or 36-400 level course that does not satisfy any other requirement for a Statistics Major and Minor may be counted as a Statistical Elective.

**Intermediate**

Choose one of the following courses:

- 36-202 Statistical Methods 9
- 36-70-208 Regression Analysis 9
- 36-309 Experimental Design for Behavioral and Social Sciences 9

*Or extra data analysis course in Statistics

**Advanced**

Choose one of the following courses:

- 36-303 Sampling, Survey and Society 9
- 36-315 Statistical Graphics and Visualization 9

Students can also take a second 36-46x (see section #5).

And take the following two courses:

- 36-401 Modern Regression 9
- 36-402 Advanced Methods for Data Analysis 9

**Sequence 2 (For students beginning later in their college career)**

**Advanced**

Choose two of the following courses:

- 36-303 Sampling, Survey and Society 9
- 36-315 Statistical Graphics and Visualization 9
- 36-461 Special Topics: Statistical Methods in Epidemiology 9
- 36-462 Special Topics: Data Mining 9
- 36-463 Special Topics: Multilevel and Hierarchical Models 9
- 36-464 Special Topics: Applied Multivariate Methods 9

**Special Topics rotate and new ones are regularly added. See section 5 for details.

And take the following two courses:

- 36-401 Modern Regression 9
- 36-402 Advanced Methods for Data Analysis 9

**3. Probability Theory and Statistical Theory:** 18 units

The theory of probability gives a mathematical description of the randomness inherent in our observations. It is the language in which statistical models are stated, so an understanding of probability is essential for the study of statistical theory. Statistical theory provides a mathematical framework for making inferences about unknown quantities from data. The theory reduces statistical problems to their essential ingredients to help devise and evaluate inferential procedures. It provides a powerful and wide-ranging set of tools for dealing with uncertainty.

To satisfy the theory requirement take the following two courses:

- 36-225 Introduction to Probability Theory ** 9
- 36-226 Introduction to Statistical Inference 9
- 36-326 Mathematical Statistics (Honors) 9

**Special Topics rotate and new ones are regularly added. See section 5 for details.

And take the following two courses:

- 36-401 Modern Regression 9
- 36-402 Advanced Methods for Data Analysis 9

**4. Statistical Computing:** 9 units

- 36-350 Statistical Computing * 9

*In rare circumstances, a higher level Computer Science course that includes Statistical Computing content approved by your Statistics advisor may be used as a substitute.

**5. Special Topics** 9 units

The Statistics Department offers advanced courses that focus on specific statistical applications or advanced statistical methods. These courses are numbered 36-46x (36-461, 36-462, etc.). Two of these courses will be offered every year, one per semester. Past topics included Statistical Learning, Data Mining, Statistics and the Law, Bayesian Statistics, Nonparametric Statistics, Statistical Genetics, Multilevel and Hierarchical Models, and Statistical Methods in Epidemiology. The objective of the course is to expose students to important topics in statistics and/or interesting applications which are not part of the standard undergraduate curriculum.

To satisfy the Special Topics requirement choose one of the 36-46x courses (which are 9 units).
6. Statistical Elective: 9–10 units

Students are required to take one* elective which can be within or outside the Statistics Department. Courses within statistics can be any 300 or 400 level course (that is not used to satisfy any other requirement for the Statistics major).

The following is a partial list of courses outside statistics that qualify as electives as they provide intellectual infrastructure that will advance the student's understanding of statistics and its applications. Other courses may qualify as well; consult with the Statistics Undergraduate Advisor.

15-110 Principles of Computing 10
15-121 Introduction to Data Structures 10
15-122 Principles of Imperative Computation 10
21-127 Concepts of Mathematics 10
21-260 Differential Equations 9
21-292 Operations Research I 9
21-301 Combinatorics 9
21-355 Principles of Real Analysis I 9
80-220 Philosophy of Science 9
80-221 Philosophy of Social Science 9
80-310 Formal Logic 9
85-310 Research Methods in Cognitive Psychology 9
85-320 Research Methods in Developmental Psychology 9
85-340 Research Methods in Social Psychology 9
88-223 Decision Analysis 9
88-302 Behavioral Decision Making 9

Note: Additional prerequisites are required for some of these courses. Students should carefully check the course descriptions to determine if additional prerequisites are necessary.

* Students who enter the program through 36-225 or 36-226 and skip the beginning data analysis course, or students who end up satisfying the theory requirement using 36-700 or 36-705 are required to take two electives only one of which can be outside the Statistics Department. (In general, any waived requirement is replaced by a statistical elective.)

7. Tracks*:

Self-Defined Concentration Area (with advisor's approval) 36 units

The power of Statistics, and much of the fun, is that it can be applied to answer such a wide variety of questions in so many different fields. A critical part of statistical practice is understanding the questions being asked so that appropriate methods of analysis can be used. Hence, a critical part of statistical training is to gain experience applying the abstract tools to real problems. The Concentration Area is a set of four related courses outside of Statistics that prepares the student to deal with statistical aspects of problems that arise in another field. These courses are usually drawn from a single discipline of interest to the student and are chosen in consultation with the Statistics Undergraduate Advisor. For example, students intending to pursue careers in public policy could take further courses in History or Economics, students intending to pursue careers in the health or biomedical sciences could take further courses in Biology or Chemistry, and students intending to pursue graduate work in Statistics could take further courses in advanced Mathematics.

Mathematical Statistics Track 46–52 units

21-127 Concepts of Mathematics 10
21-355 Principles of Real Analysis I 9
36-410 Introduction to Probability Modeling 9

And two of the following:
36-700 Probability and Mathematical Statistics I 12
or 36-705 Intermediate Statistics 12
21-228 Discrete Mathematics 9
21-257 Models and Methods for Optimization 9
21-292 Operations Research I 9
21-301 Combinatorics 9
21-356 Principles of Real Analysis II 9

Statistics and Neuroscience Track 45–54 units

85-211 Cognitive Psychology 9
85-219 Biological Foundations of Behavior 9

And three electives (at least one from Methodology and Analysis and at least one from Neuroscientific Background)

Methodology and Analysis

36-700 Probability and Mathematical Statistics I 12
or 36-705 Intermediate Statistics 12
10-601 Introduction to Machine Learning (Masters) 12
18-290 Signals and Systems 12
85-314 Cognitive Neuroscience Research Methods 9
42-86-631 Neural Data Analysis 9

Neuroscientific Background

03-362 Cellular Neuroscience 9
03-363 Systems Neuroscience 9
15-386 Neural Computation 9
85-414 Cognitive Neuropsychology 9
85-419 Introduction to Parallel Distributed Processing 9

* Note: The concentration/track requirement is only for students whose primary major is statistics and have no other additional major or minor. The requirement does not apply for students who pursue an additional major in statistics.

Total Number of Units for the Major: 146-175*

Total Number of Units for the Degree: 360

* Note: This number can vary depending on the calculus sequence and on the concentration area a student takes. In addition this number includes the 36 units of the "Concentration Area" category which may not be required (see category 7 above for details).

Recommendations

Students in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences who wish to major in Statistics are advised to complete both the calculus requirement (one Mathematical Foundations calculus sequence) and the Beginning Data Analysis course 36-201 Statistical Reasoning and Practice by the end of their Freshman year.

The linear algebra requirement is a prerequisite for the course 36-401. It is therefore essential to complete this requirement during your junior year at the latest!

Recommendations for Prospective PhD Students

Students interested in pursuing a PhD in Statistics or Biostatistics (or related programs) after completing their undergraduate degree are strongly recommended to pursue the Mathematical Statistics Track.

Additional Major in Statistics

Students who elect Statistics as a second or third major must fulfill all Statistics degree requirements except for the Concentration Area requirement. Majors in many other programs would naturally complement a Statistics Major, including Tepper's undergraduate business program, Social and Decision Sciences, Policy and Management, and Psychology.

With respect to double-counting courses, it is departmental policy that students must have at least five statistics courses that do not count for their primary major. If students do not have at least five, they typically take additional advanced electives.

Students are advised to begin planning their curriculum (with appropriate advisors) as soon as possible. This is particularly true if the other major has a complex set of requirements and prerequisites or when many of the other major's requirements overlap with the requirements for a Major in Statistics.

Many departments require Statistics courses as part of their Major or Minor programs. Students seeking transfer credit for those requirements from substitute courses (at Carnegie Mellon or elsewhere) should seek permission from their advisor in the department setting the requirement. The final authority in such decisions rests there. The Statistics Department does not provide approval or permission for substitution or waiver of another department's requirements.

If a waiver or substitution is made in the home department, it is not automatically approved in the Statistics Department. In many of these cases, the student will need to take additional courses to satisfy the Statistics major requirements. Students should discuss this with a Statistics advisor when deciding whether to add an additional major in Statistics.
Research

One goal of the Statistics program is to give students experience with statistical research. There is a wide variety of ongoing research projects in the department, and students have several opportunities to get involved in a project that interests them.

Before graduation, students are encouraged to participate in a research project under faculty supervision. Students can do this through projects in specific courses (such as 36-303), through an independent study, or through a summer research position.

Qualified students are also encouraged to participate in an advanced research project through 36-490 Undergraduate Research or independent study under the supervision of a Statistics faculty advisor. Students who maintain a quality point average of 3.25 overall may also apply to participate in the Dietrich College Senior Honors Program (http://coursecatalog.web.cmu.edu/dietrichcollegeofhumanitiesandsocialsciences/#collegeservicesandprograms).

Sample Programs

The following sample programs illustrate three (of many) ways to satisfy the requirements of the Statistics Major. However, keep in mind that the program is flexible enough to support many other possible schedules and to emphasize a wide variety of interests.

The first schedule uses calculus sequence 1, and 21-127 Concepts of Mathematics as a Statistical Elective outside of Statistics.

The second schedule is an example of the case when a student enters the program through 36-225 and 36-226 (and therefore skips the beginning data analysis course). The schedule uses calculus sequence 2, and includes two advanced electives (36-315 and 36-303), both within the Statistics Department. This schedule has more emphasis on statistical theory and probability.

The third schedule is an example of the Mathematical Statistics track. In these schedules, C.A. refers to Concentration Area courses.

Schedule 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Freshman</th>
<th>Sophomore</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>21-111 Calculus I</td>
<td>21-112 Calculus II</td>
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Junior

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<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Fall</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36-225 Introduction to Probability Theory</td>
<td>36-226 Introduction to Statistical Inference</td>
<td>36-401 Modern Regression</td>
<td>C.A.</td>
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<tr>
<td>21-240 Matrix Algebra with Applications</td>
<td>C.A.</td>
<td>36-402 Advanced Methods for Data Analysis</td>
<td>36-46x Special Topics</td>
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<tr>
<td>36-350 Statistical Computing</td>
<td>C.A.</td>
<td>C.A.</td>
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Schedule 2

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<th>Sophomore</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>21-120 Differential and Integral Calculus</td>
<td>21-256 Multivariate Analysis</td>
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Junior

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<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Fall</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36-401 Modern Regression</td>
<td>36-402 Advanced Methods for Data Analysis</td>
<td>36-46x Special Topics</td>
<td>36-303 Sampling, Survey and Society</td>
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<td>C.A.</td>
<td>C.A.</td>
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Schedule 3

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<td>Fall</td>
<td>Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>21-120 Differential and Integral Calculus</td>
<td>21-256 Multivariate Analysis</td>
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Junior

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<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36-350 Statistical Computing</td>
<td>36-315 Statistical Graphics and Visualization</td>
<td>36-46x Special Topics</td>
<td>36-303 Sampling, Survey and Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36-401 Modern Regression</td>
<td>36-402 Advanced Methods for Data Analysis</td>
<td>21-355 Principles of Real Analysis I</td>
<td>21-241 Linear Algebra</td>
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</table>

B.S. in Economics and Statistics

Academic Advisor: Paige Houser
Faculty Advisor: Rebecca Nugent
Executive Director, Undergraduate Economics Program: Carol Goldberg
Associate Director, Undergraduate Economics Program: Kathleen Conway
Office: Baker Hall 132A
Email: acadcoord@stat.cmu.edu

The Major in Economics and Statistics provides an interdisciplinary course of study aimed at students with a strong interest in the empirical analysis of economic data. With joint curriculum from the Department of Statistics and the Undergraduate Economics Program, the major provides students with a solid foundation in the theories and methods of both fields. Students in this major are trained to advance the understanding of economic issues through the analysis, synthesis and reporting of data using the advanced empirical research methods of statistics and econometrics. Graduates are well positioned for admission to competitive graduate programs, including those in statistics, economics and management, as well as for employment in positions requiring strong analytic and conceptual skills—especially those in economics, finance, education, and public policy.

The requirements for the B.S. in Economics and Statistics are the following:

I. Prerequisites38-39 units

1. Mathematical Foundations38-39 units

Calculus

- 21-120 Differential and Integral Calculus 10
and one of the following three:
- 21-122 Integration and Approximation 10
- 21-127 Concepts of Mathematics 10
- 21-257 Models and Methods for Optimization 9

and one of the following:
- 21-256 Multivariate Analysis 9
- 21-259 Calculus in Three Dimensions 9

Note: Passing the MSC 21-120 assessment test is an acceptable alternative to completing 21-120.

Note: Taking both 21-111 and 21-112 is equivalent to 21-120. The Mathematical Foundations total is then 48-49 units. The Economics and Statistics major would then total 201-202 units.

Linear Algebra

One of the following three courses:
- 21-240 Matrix Algebra with Applications 10
- 21-241 Matrices and Linear Transformations 10
- 21-242 Matrix Theory 10

Note: 21-241 and 21-242 are intended only for students with a very strong mathematical background.
II. Foundations 18-27 units

2. Economics Foundations 9 units
   73-100 Principles of Economics 9

3. Statistical Foundations 9-18 units
   Sequence 1 (For students beginning their freshman or sophomore year)
   **Beginning**
   Choose one of the following courses:
   - 36-201 Statistical Reasoning and Practice 9
   - 36-70-207 Probability and Statistics for Business Applications 9
   - 36-220 Engineering Statistics and Quality Control 9
   - 36-247 Statistics for Lab Sciences 9
   *Or extra data analysis course in Statistics

   **Intermediate**
   Choose one of the following courses:
   - 36-202 Statistical Methods 9
   - 36-208 Regression Analysis 9
   - 36-309 Experimental Design for Behavioral and Social Sciences 9
   *Or extra data analysis course in Statistics

   **Students who enter the program with 36-225/36-226 should discuss options with their advisors.**

   Sequence 2 (For students beginning later in their college career)
   **Advanced**
   Choose one of the following courses:
   - 36-303 Sampling, Survey and Society 9
   - 36-315 Statistical Graphics and Visualization 9
   - 36-461 Special Topics: Statistical Methods in Epidemiology 9
   - 36-462 Special Topics: Data Mining 9
   - 36-463 Special Topics: Multilevel and Hierarchical Models 9
   - 36-464 Special Topics: Applied Multivariate Methods 9
   *Special Topics rotate and new ones are regularly added.

III. Disciplinary Core 126 units

1. Economics Core 45 units
   73-230 Intermediate Microeconomics 9
   73-240 Intermediate Macroeconomics 9
   73-270 Writing for Economists 9
   73-274 Econometrics I 9
   73-374 Econometrics II 9

2. Statistics Core 36 units
   36-225 Introduction to Probability Theory **# 9
   and one of the following two courses:
   - 36-226 Introduction to Statistical Inference ** 9
   - 36-326 Mathematical Statistics (Honors) ** 9
   and both of the following two courses:
   - 36-401 Modern Regression ** 9
   - 36-402 Advanced Methods for Data Analysis 9
   *In order to be a major in good standing, a grade of C or better is required in 36-225 (or equivalents), 36-226 or 36-326 and 36-401. Otherwise you will not be allowed to continue in the major.
   **#It is possible to substitute 36-217 or 21-325 for 36-225. (36-225 is the standard introduction to probability, 36-217 is tailored for engineers and computer scientists, and 21-325 is a rigorous Probability Theory course offered by the Department of Mathematics.)

3. Computing 9 units
   36-350 Statistical Computing ** 9
   *In rare circumstances, a higher level Computer Science course that includes Statistical Computing content approved by your Statistics advisor may be used as a substitute.

4. Advanced Electives 36 units
   Students must take two advanced Economics elective courses (numbered 73-350 through 73-495, excluding 73-374, 73-407 and 73-450) and two advanced Statistics elective courses (numbered 36-363, 36-315, or 36-410 through 36-495).

   **Total number of units for the major** 182-192 units
   **Total number of units for the degree** 360 units

Professional Development

Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of professional development opportunities and/or coursework. One option is 73-450 Economics Colloquium, a fall-only mini that provides information about careers in Economics, job search strategies, and research opportunities. The Statistics Department also offers a series of workshops pertaining to resume preparation, graduate school applications, careers in the field, among other topics. Students should also take advantage of the Career and Professional Development Center.

Sample Program

The following sample program illustrates one way to satisfy the requirements of the Economics and Statistics Major. Keep in mind that the program is flexible and can support other possible schedules (see footnotes below the schedule).

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Freshman Fall</th>
<th>Sophomore Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21-120 Differential and Integral Calculus</td>
<td>36-202 Statistical Methods</td>
<td>21-122 Integration and Approximation **</td>
<td>21-240 Matrix Algebra with Applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>36-301 Statistical Reasoning and Practice</td>
<td>21-256 Multivariate Analysis</td>
<td>36-225 Introduction to Probability Theory</td>
<td>36-226 Introduction to Statistical Inference</td>
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<tr>
<td>73-160 Foundations of Macroeconomics</td>
<td>73-274 Econometrics I</td>
<td>73-274 Econometrics I</td>
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<th>Junior</th>
<th>Senior</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>36-401 Modern Regression</td>
<td>73-270 Writing for Economists</td>
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<tr>
<td>73-374 Econometrics II</td>
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*In each semester, ----- represents other courses (not related to the major) which are needed in order to complete the 360 units that the degree requires.

** Students can also take 21-127 or 21-257. Students should consult with their advisor.

73-160 is not required but it is recommended by the Economics department.

Prospective PhD students might add 21-127 fall of sophomore year, replace 21-240 with 21-241, add 21-260 in spring of junior year and 21-355 in fall of senior year.

Students who elect Economics and Statistics as a second major must fulfill all Economic and Statistics degree requirements. Majors in many other programs would naturally complement an Economics and Statistics Major, including Business Administration, Social and Decision Sciences, Policy and Management, Social & Political History, and Psychology.

With respect to double-counting courses, it is departmental policy that students must have at least six courses (three Economics and three Statistics) that do not count for their primary major. If students do not have at least six, they typically take additional advanced electives.
Students are advised to begin planning their curriculum (with appropriate advisors) as soon as possible. This is particularly true if the other major has a complex set of requirements and prerequisites.

B.S. in Statistics and Machine Learning

Academic Advisor: Paige Houser
Faculty Advisor: Ryan Tibshirani
Office: Baker Hall 132A
Email: acadcoord@stat.cmu.edu

Students in the Bachelor of Science program develop and master a wide array of skills in computing, mathematics, statistical theory, and the interpretation and display of complex data. In addition, Statistics and Machine Learning majors gain experience in applying statistical tools to real problems in other fields and learn the nuances of interdisciplinary collaboration. This program is geared towards students interested in statistical computation, data science, or “Big Data” problems. The requirements for the Major in Statistics and Machine Learning are detailed below and are organized by categories.

1. Mathematical Foundations (Prerequisites) 49–59 units

Mathematics is the language in which statistical models are described and analyzed, so some experience with basic calculus and linear algebra is an important component for anyone pursuing a program of study in Statistics and Machine Learning.

**Calculus**: Complete one of the following three sequences of mathematics courses at Carnegie Mellon, each of which provides sufficient preparation in calculus:

**Sequence 1**
- 21-111 Calculus I 10
- 21-112 Calculus II 10
and one of the following:
- 21-256 Multivariate Analysis 9
- 21-259 Calculus in Three Dimensions 9

**Sequence 2**
- 21-120 Differential and Integral Calculus 10
and one of the following:
- 21-256 Multivariate Analysis 9
- 21-259 Calculus in Three Dimensions 9

**Note:** Other sequences are possible, and require approval from the undergraduate advisor.

**Note:** Passing the Mathematical Sciences 21-120 assessment test is an acceptable alternative to completing 21-120.

**Integration and Approximation**
- 21-122 Integration and Approximation 10

**Linear Algebra**: Complete one of the following three courses:
- 21-240 Matrix Algebra with Applications 10
- 21-241 Matrices and Linear Transformations 10
- 21-242 Matrix Theory 10

* It is recommended that students complete the calculus requirement during their freshman year.

**The linear algebra requirement needs to be completed before taking 36-401 Modern Regression.**

21-241 and 21-242 are intended only for students with a very strong mathematical background.

**Mathematical Theory:**
- 21-127 Concepts of Mathematics 10

2. Data Analysis 45–54 units

Data analysis is the art and science of extracting insight from data. The art lies in knowing which displays or techniques will reveal the most interesting features of a complicated data set. The science lies in understanding the various techniques and the assumptions on which they rely. Both aspects require practice to master.

The Beginning Data Analysis courses give a hands-on introduction to the art and science of data analysis. The courses cover similar topics but differ slightly in the examples they emphasize. 36-201 draws examples from many fields and satisfies the Dietrich College Core Requirement in Statistical Reasoning. It is therefore the recommended course for students in the College. (Note: A score of 4 or 5 on the Advanced Placement (AP) Exam in Statistics may be used to waive this requirement). Other courses emphasize examples in business (36-207), engineering and architecture (36-220), and the laboratory sciences (36-247).

The Intermediate Data Analysis courses build on the principles and methods covered in the introductory course, and more fully explore specific types of data analysis methods in more depth.

The Advanced Data Analysis courses draw on students’ previous experience with data analysis and understanding of statistical theory to develop advanced, more sophisticated methods. These core courses involve extensive analysis of real data with emphasis on developing the oral and writing skills needed for communicating results.

**Sequence 1**

**Beginning**
- Choose one of the following courses:
  - 36-201 Statistical Reasoning and Practice 9
  - 36/70-207 Probability and Statistics for Business Applications 9
  - 36-220 Engineering Statistics and Quality Control 9
  - 36-247 Statistics for Lab Sciences 9
  * Or extra data analysis course in Statistics

*Note: Students who enter the program with 36-225 or 36-226 should discuss options with an advisor. Any 36-300 or 36-400 level course that does not satisfy any other requirement for a Statistics Major and Minor may be counted as a Statistical Elective.

**Intermediate**
- Choose one of the following courses:
  - 36-202 Statistical Methods 9
  - 36/70-208 Regression Analysis 9
  - 36-309 Experimental Design for Behavioral and Social Sciences 9
  * Or extra data analysis course in Statistics

**Advanced**
- Choose two of the following courses:
  - 36-303 Sampling, Survey and Society 9
  - 36-315 Statistical Graphics and Visualization 9
  - 36-461 Special Topics: Statistical Methods in Epidemiology 9
  - 36-462 Special Topics: Data Mining 9
  - 36-463 Special Topics: Multilevel and Hierarchical Models 9
  - 36-464 Special Topics: Applied Multivariate Methods 9

**Special Topics rotate and new ones are regularly added.**

and take the following two courses:
- 36-401 Modern Regression 9
- 36-402 Advanced Methods for Data Analysis 9

**Sequence 2**

**Advanced**
- Choose three of the following courses:
  - 36-303 Sampling, Survey and Society 9
  - 36-315 Statistical Graphics and Visualization 9
  - 36-461 Special Topics: Statistical Methods in Epidemiology 9
  - 36-462 Special Topics: Data Mining 9
  - 36-463 Special Topics: Multilevel and Hierarchical Models 9
  - 36-464 Special Topics: Applied Multivariate Methods 9

**Special Topics rotate and new ones are regularly added.**
3. Probability Theory and Statistical Theory 18 units

The theory of probability gives a mathematical description of the randomness inherent in our observations. It is the language in which statistical models are stated, so an understanding of probability is essential for the study of statistical theory. Statistical theory provides a mathematical framework for making inferences about unknown quantities from data. The theory reduces statistical problems to their essential ingredients to help devise and evaluate inferential procedures. It provides a powerful and wide-ranging set of tools for dealing with uncertainty.

To satisfy the theory requirement take the following two courses**:

- 36-225 Introduction to Probability Theory 9
- 36-226 Introduction to Statistical Inference 9
- or 36-326 Mathematical Statistics (Honors) 9

*It is possible to substitute 36-217 or 21-325 for 36-225. (36-225 is the standard introduction to probability, 36-217 is tailored for engineers and computer scientists, and 21-325 is a rigorous Probability Theory course offered by the Department of Mathematics.) 36-326 Mathematical Statistics (Honors) can be substituted for 36-226 Introduction to Statistical Inference and is considered an honors course.

Comments:

(i) In order to be a Major or a Minor in good standing, a grade of at least a C is required in 36-225, 36-226 and 36-401. In particular, a grade of C or higher is required in order to be able to continue in the major.

(ii) In special cases, and in consultation with the Statistics Advisor, the theory requirement can be satisfied by taking a single graduate level class 36-700 Probability and Mathematical Statistics I or 36-705 Intermediate Statistics which is much more mathematically rigorous. This option should be considered by strong Statistics Majors who are also majoring in Computer Science, Operations Research, or Mathematics and/or who are considering graduate study in Statistics. This option does require special permission from the advisor. Students who end up satisfying the theory requirement by taking either 36-700 or 36-705 are required to take an additional statistics elective.

4. Computing 64-67 units

Statistical modeling in practice nearly always requires computation in one way or another. Computational algorithms are sometimes treated as “black-boxes”, whose innards the statistician need not pay attention to. But this attitude is becoming less and less prevalent, and today there is much to be gained from a strong working knowledge of computational tools. Understanding the strengths and weaknesses of various methods allows the data analyst to select the right tool for the job; understanding how they can be adapted to work in new settings greatly extends the realm of problems that he/she can solve. While all Majors in Statistics are given solid grounding in computation, extensive computational training is really what sets the Major in Statistics and Machine Learning apart.

- 36-350 Statistical Computing 9
- 15-112 Fundamentals of Programming and Computer Science 12
- 15-122 Principles of Imperative Computation 10
- 15-351 Algorithms and Advanced Data Structures 12
- 10-601 Introduction to Machine Learning (Masters) 12

*In rare circumstances, a higher level Computer Science course that includes Statistical Computing content approved by your Statistics advisor may be used as a substitute.

and take one of the following courses:

- 10-605 Machine Learning with Large Datasets 12
- 15-381 Artificial Intelligence: Representation and Problem Solving 9
- 15-386 Neural Computation 9
- 16-720 Computer Vision 12
- 16-311 Introduction to Robotics 12
- 11-411 Natural Language Processing 12
- 11-761 Language and Statistics 12

*PhD level ML course as approved by Statistics advisor

** Independent research with an ML faculty member
The Minor in Statistics

Academic Advisor: Paige Houser
Faculty Advisor: Howard Seltman
Office: Baker Hall 132A
Email: acadcoord@stat.cmu.edu

The Minor in Statistics develops skills that complement major study in other disciplines. The program helps the student master the basics of statistical theory and advanced techniques in data analysis. This is a good choice for deepening understanding of statistical ideas and for strengthening research skills.

In order to get a minor in Statistics a student must satisfy all of the following requirements:

1. Mathematical Foundations (Prerequisites) 28–38 units
   
   **Calculus**: Complete one of the following two sequences of mathematics courses at Carnegie Mellon, each of which provides sufficient preparation in calculus:
   
   **Sequence 1**
   - 21-111 Calculus I 10
   - 21-112 Calculus II 10
   
   and one of the following:
   - 21-256 Multivariate Analysis 9
   - 21-259 Calculus in Three Dimensions 9
   
   **Sequence 2**
   - 21-120 Differential and Integral Calculus 10
   
   and one of the following:
   - 21-256 Multivariate Analysis 9
   - 21-259 Calculus in Three Dimensions 9

   **Note:** Other sequences are possible, and require approval from the undergraduate advisor.

2. Data Analysis 36 units
   
   Data analysis is the art and science of extracting insight from data. The art lies in knowing which displays or techniques will reveal the most interesting features of a complicated data set. The science lies in understanding the various techniques and the assumptions on which they rely. Both aspects require practice to master.

   The Beginning Data Analysis courses give a hands-on introduction to the art and science of data analysis. The courses cover similar topics but differ slightly in the examples they emphasize. 36-201 draws examples from many fields and satisfies the DC College Core Requirement in Statistical Reasoning. It is therefore the recommended course for students in the College. (Note: A score of 4 or 5 on the Advanced Placement (AP) Exam in Statistics may be used to waive this requirement). Other courses emphasize examples in business (36-207 ), engineering and architecture (36-220 ), and the laboratory sciences (36-247 ).

   The Intermediate Data Analysis courses build on the principles and methods covered in the introductory course, and more fully explore specific types of data analysis methods in more depth.

   The Advanced Data Analysis courses draw on students' previous experience with data analysis and understanding of statistical theory to develop advanced, more sophisticated methods. These core courses involve extensive analysis of real data with emphasis on developing the oral and writing skills needed for communicating results.

   **Sequence 1 (For students beginning their freshman or sophomore year)**

   **Beginning Data Analysis**
   
   Choose one of the following courses:
   - 36-201 Statistical Reasoning and Practice 9
   - 36/70-207 Probability and Statistics for Business Applications 9
   - 36-220 Engineering Statistics and Quality Control 9
   - 36-247 Statistics for Lab Sciences 9

   **Intermediate Data Analysis**
   
   Choose one of the following courses:
   - 36-202 Statistical Methods 9
   - 36/70-208 Regression Analysis 9
   - 36-309 Experimental Design for Behavioral and Social Sciences 9

   **Advanced Data Analysis**
   
   Take the following course:
   - 36-401 Modern Regression 9

   and one of the following courses:
   - 36-402 Advanced Methods for Data Analysis 9
   - 36-410 Introduction to Probability Modeling 9
   - 36-461 Special Topics: Statistical Methods in Epidemiology 9
   - 36-462 Special Topics: Data Mining 9

   **Note:** Passing the Mathematical Sciences 21-120 assessment test if an acceptable alternative to completing 21-120.
36-463 Special Topics: Multilevel and Hierarchical Models 9
36-464 Special Topics: Applied Multivariate Methods 9
36-490 Undergraduate Research 9

**Special Topics rotate and new ones are regularly added.

Sequence 2 (For students beginning later in their college career)

### Advanced Data Analysis

Take the following course:

36-401 Modern Regression 9

and take two of the following courses (one of which must be 400-level):

36-303 Sampling, Survey and Society 9
36-315 Statistical Graphics and Visualization 9
36-402 Advanced Methods for Data Analysis 9
36-410 Introduction to Probability Modeling 9
36-461 Special Topics: Statistical Methods in Epidemiology 9
36-462 Special Topics: Data Mining 9
36-463 Special Topics: Multilevel and Hierarchical Models 9
36-464 Special Topics: Applied Multivariate Methods 9
36-490 Undergraduate Research 9

**Special Topics rotate and new ones are regularly added.

### 3. Probability Theory and Statistical Theory 18 units

To satisfy the theory requirement take the following two courses:

36-225 Introduction to Probability Theory 9
36-226 Introduction to Statistical Inference 9
or 36-326 Mathematical Statistics (Honors) 9

**It is possible to substitute 36-217 or 21-325 for 36-225. (36-225 is the standard introduction to probability, 36-217 is tailored for engineers and computer scientists, and 21-325 is a rigorous Probability Theory course offered by the Department of Mathematics.) 36-326 Mathematical Statistics (Honors) can be substituted for 36-226 Introduction to Statistical Inference and is considered an honors course.

### Comments:

(i) In order to be a Major or a Minor in good standing, a grade of at least a C is required in 36-225, 36-226 and 36-401. In particular, a grade of C or higher is required in order to be able to continue in the major.

(ii) In special cases, and in consultation with the Statistics Advisor, the theory requirement can be satisfied by taking a single graduate level class 36-700 Probability and Mathematical Statistics I or 36-705 Intermediate Statistics which is much more mathematically rigorous. This option should be considered by strong Statistics Majors who are also majoring in Computer Science, Operations Research, or Mathematics and/or who are considering graduate study in Statistics. This option does require special permission from the advisor. Students who end up satisfying the theory requirement by taking either 36-700 or 36-705 are required to take an additional statistics elective.

### Total number of units required 82 Units for the minor

With respect to double-counting courses, it is departmental policy that students must have at least three statistics courses that do not count for their primary major. If students do not have at least three, they typically take additional advanced electives.

### Sample Programs for the Minor

The following two sample programs illustrates two (of many) ways to satisfy the requirements of the Statistics Minor. Keep in mind that the program is flexible and can support many other possible schedules.

The first schedule uses calculus sequence 1, and 36-309 to satisfy the intermediate data analysis requirement. The second schedule is an example of the case when a student enters the minor through 36-225 and 36-226 (and therefore skips the beginning data analysis course). The schedule uses calculus sequence 2, and 36-315 as an elective (to replace the beginning data analysis course).

### Substitutions and Waivers

Many departments require Statistics courses as part of their Major or Minor programs. Students seeking transfer credit for those requirements from substitute courses (at Carnegie Mellon or elsewhere) should seek permission from their advisor in the department setting the requirement. The final authority in such decisions rests there. The Statistics Department does not provide approval or permission for substitution or waiver of another department’s requirements.

However, the Statistics Director of Undergraduate Studies will provide advice and information to the student’s advisor about the viability of a proposed substitution. Students should make available as much information as possible concerning proposed substitutions. Students seeking waivers may be asked to demonstrate mastery of the material.

If a waiver or substitution is made in the home department, it is not automatically approved in the Statistics Department. In many of these cases, the student will need to take additional courses to satisfy the Statistics major requirements. Students should discuss this with a Statistics advisor when deciding whether to add an additional major in Statistics.

Statistics Majors and Minors seeking substitutions or waivers should speak to the Statistics Director of Undergraduate Studies.

### Faculty

XIZHEN CAI, Assistant Teaching Professor – Ph.D., The Pennsylvania State University; Carnegie Mellon, 2014–.
DAVID CHOI, Assistant Professor of Statistics and Information Systems – Ph.D., Stanford University; Carnegie Mellon, 2004–.
ALEXANDRA CHOULDECHOVA, Assistant Professor of Statistics and Public Policy – Ph.D., Stanford University; Carnegie Mellon, 2014–.
STEPHEN E. FENBERG, University Professor and Maurice Falk Professor of Statistics and Social Sciences – Ph.D., Harvard University; Carnegie Mellon, 1980–.
MAX G’SELL, Assistant Professor – Ph.D., Stanford University; Carnegie Mellon, 2014–.
CHRISTOPHER R. GENOVESE, Department Head and Professor of Statistics – Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley; Carnegie Mellon, 1994–.
JOEL B. GREENHOUSE, Professor of Statistics – Ph.D., University of Michigan; Carnegie Mellon, 1982–.
JIASHUN JIN, Professor of Statistics – Ph.D., Stanford University; Carnegie Mellon, 2007–.
BRIAN JUNKER, Associate Dean and Professor of Statistics – Ph.D., University of Illinois; Carnegie Mellon, 1990–.
ROBERT E. KASS, Professor of Statistics – Ph.D., University of Chicago; Carnegie Mellon, 1981–.
EDWARD KENNEDY, Assistant Professor – Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania; Carnegie Mellon, 2016–.
ANN LEE, Associate Professor – Ph.D., Brown University; Carnegie Mellon, 2005–.

### Schedule 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Freshman</th>
<th>Sophomore</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-111 Calculus I</td>
<td>21-112 Calculus II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36-201 Statistical Reasoning and Practice</td>
<td>36-309 Experimental Design for Behavioral and Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Schedule 2

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Freshman</th>
<th>Sophomore</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-120 Differential and Integral Calculus</td>
<td>21-256 Multivariate Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36-315 Statistical Graphics and Visualization</td>
<td>36-401 Modern Regression</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Schedule 1**

**Schedule 2**

**Statistics Majors and Minors seeking substitutions or waivers should speak to the Statistics Director of Undergraduate Studies.**
JOHN P. LEHOCZKY, Thomas Lord Professor of Statistics – Ph.D., Stanford University; Carnegie Mellon, 1969–.
JING LEI, Assistant Professor – Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley; Carnegie Mellon, 2011–.
DANIEL NAGIN, Teresa and H. John Heinz III Professor of Public Policy – Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon University; Carnegie Mellon, 1976–.
REBECCA NUGENT, Teaching Professor – Ph.D., University of Washington; Carnegie Mellon, 2006–.
ALESSANDRO RINALDO, Associate Professor – Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon; Carnegie Mellon, 2005–.
KATHRYN ROEDER, Professor of Statistics – Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University; Carnegie Mellon, 1994–.
CHAD M. SCHAER, Associate Professor – Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley; Carnegie Mellon, 2004–.
MARK J. SCHERVISH, Professor of Statistics – Ph.D., University of Illinois; Carnegie Mellon, 1979–.
TEDDY SEIDENFELD, Herbert A. Simon Professor of Philosophy and Statistics – Ph.D., Columbia University; Carnegie Mellon, 1985–.
COSMA SHALIZI, Associate Professor – Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, Madison; Carnegie Mellon, 2005–.
RYAN TIBSHIRANI, Associate Professor – Ph.D., Stanford University; Carnegie Mellon, 2011–.
VALERIE VENTURA, Associate Professor – Ph.D., University of Oxford; Carnegie Mellon, 1997–.
LARRY WASSERMAN, Professor of Statistics – Ph.D., University of Toronto; Carnegie Mellon, 1988–.

Emeriti Faculty

GEORGE T. DUNCAN, Professor of Statistics and Public Policy – Ph.D., University of Minnesota; Carnegie Mellon, 1974–.
WILLIAM F. EDDY, John C. Warner Professor of Statistics – Ph.D, Yale University; Carnegie Mellon, 1976–.
JOSEPH B. KADANE, Leonard J. Savage Professor of Statistics and Social Sciences – Ph.D., Stanford University; Carnegie Mellon, 1969–.

Adjunct Faculty

ANTHONY BROCKWELL, – Ph.D., Melbourne University; Carnegie Mellon, 1999–.
BERNIE DEVLIN, – Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University; Carnegie Mellon, 1994–.

Special Faculty

OLGA CHILINA, Lecturer – MS, University of Toronto; Carnegie Mellon, 2006–.
PETER FREEMAN, Research Associate – Ph.D., University of Chicago; Carnegie Mellon, 2004–.
HOWARD SELTMAN, Senior Research Statistician – Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon; M.D., Medical College of Pennsylvania; Carnegie Mellon, 1999–.
ISABELLA VERDINELLI, Professor in Residence – Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon University; Carnegie Mellon, 1991–.
GORDON WEINBERG, Lecturer – M.A. Mathematics, University of Pittsburgh; Carnegie Mellon, 2004–.

Visiting Faculty

JARED MURRAY, Assistant Professor – Ph.D., Duke University; Carnegie Mellon, 2013–.
JORDAN RODU, Assistant Professor – Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania; Carnegie Mellon, 2014–.
SAM VENTURA, Assistant Professor – Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon University; Carnegie Mellon, 2015–.