

Degree Requirements, Statistics

Graduate handbook information is updated and maintained by each program. Graduate handbooks are available within each program's office and online at <https://utexas.box.com/v/UTAustinGraduateHandbooks>. Please contact the program with concerns or questions.

Prior to admission to the program, the student should demonstrate a background knowledge of mathematics and statistics equivalent to that acquired in upper-division courses in probability and statistics. Deficiencies may be made up by taking courses suggested by the graduate advisor. In most cases, these courses may not be counted toward the degree.

Master of Science in Statistics

A master's degree may be obtained with report or without report (coursework only). Both options require a Program of Work consisting of 30 semester hours of coursework (10 courses). The report option also requires satisfactory completion of a written report and one associated three-hour report course taken on credit/no credit basis for a 33-hour total. Pursuit of the report option requires the student to find a willing supervising professor who is a member of the Graduate Studies Committee for the graduate program in Statistics.

Degree requirements for both options are distributed as follows: (1) five core courses that provide a foundation for further study, including the following coursework with a grade of at least *B*: a two-course sequence in theoretical statistics, two courses in statistical modeling, and one course in Bayesian statistics; (2) nine hours of statistics courses chosen from an approved list, including three hours of SDS coursework; (3) six hours of supporting coursework, which may be in a subject area other than statistics but must be logically related and, together with the other degree coursework, constitute a coherent degree program. The report option also requires three hours of master's report, which is expected to approximate a publishable journal article in length and quality.

Doctor of Philosophy

The Doctor of Philosophy in Statistics requires a minimum of 47 credit hours of coursework; however, it is typical for a student to complete the program in five years with over 90 credit hours of coursework, including dissertation hours. A doctoral student in statistics must complete a core set of courses in statistical theory and methods. At the end of the first year, students must complete a preliminary written examination covering the main concepts in these core courses. At the end of the second year or during the third year, students must successfully present a plan of study and demonstrate research proficiency in an oral examination to qualify for candidacy. Students are expected to write and defend their dissertation within two years of admission to candidacy. After advancing to candidacy, students are expected to write and defend a dissertation, completing program requirements within a total of five years.