

Program Planner

Master of Science Plan II – Comprehensive Exam

This checklist is a planning tool. Please consult with your advisor to track academic progress. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA and enroll in at least 12 units per quarter.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS – 49 UNITS

REQUIRED COURSES – 34 units

Course	Title	Units	Term Taken	Allowed Sub
STA 135	Multivariate Data Analysis	4 units	_____	STA 232C
STA 200A	Introduction to Probability	4 units	_____	STA 231A
STA 200B	Intro to Mathematical Statistics	4 units	_____	STA 231B
STA 200C	Intro to Mathematical Statistics	4 units	_____	
STA 206	Statistical Methods for Research	4 units	_____	STA 232A
STA 207	Statistical Methods for Research	4 units	_____	STA 232B
STA 243	Computational Statistics	4 units	_____	STA 141A
BST 290	Seminar in Biostatistics (3 quarters @ 1 unit ea)	3 units	_____	
STA 260	Statistical Practice & Data Analysis	3 units	_____	BST 299

Pre-approval from the Master Graduate Advisor required for allowed substitute courses. The substituting course cannot be used simultaneously to satisfy any other course requirements.

BIOSTATISTICS CORE COURSES – 8 units

Two courses chosen from:

Course	Title	Units	Term Taken
BST 222	Survival Analysis	4 units	_____
BST 223	Generalized Linear Models	4 units	_____
BST 224	Analysis of Longitudinal Data	4 units	_____
BST 225	Clinical Trials	4 units	_____
BST 226	Statistical Methods for Bioinformatics	4 units	_____

BIOSTATISTICS AND METHODS ELECTIVES – 4 units

One course with a substantial

biostatistical data analysis component at the graduate level. **Possible courses include the CORE COURSES list above as well as the following** (may not simultaneously satisfy any other Biostats core course requirements).

Course	Title	Units	Term Taken
BST 227	Machine Learning in Genomics	4 units	_____
STA 237A or 237B	Time Series Analysis	4 units	_____
STA 250	Topics in Applied & Computational Statistics	4 units	_____
STA 251	Topics in Statistical Methods & Models	4 units	_____
STA 252	Advanced Topics in Biostatistics	4 units	_____

LIFE SCIENCES ELECTIVE – 3 units

One course selected from any upper division (100-level) or graduate (200-level) offering in biology; epidemiology; or the environmental, agricultural or medical sciences.

_____ 3 or 4 units _____

Report any approved course substitutions to your Program Coordinator for your file.

Updated March 2021

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MS Comprehensive Exam

The MS comprehensive exam, typically taken in the student’s last quarter, is an opportunity to evaluate a student’s knowledge of biostatistics in the context of a short-term (3-week) data analysis project. Of particular interest will be the choice in analytic strategies used to address specific scientific questions and the ability to adequately describe and present the background, methods, results and conclusions of the project. The exam itself consists of a data analysis, a write-up of the project in the form of a scientific manuscript, and an oral presentation/defense of the project during which the student will be examined by the committee, consisting of two permanent members and the student’s Chair.

Advancement to Candidacy

Plan II M.S. Candidates must file an [advancement to M.S. candidacy \(Plan II\) form](#) prior to completion of the program. Candidates must have taken at least half of the required coursework for their degree requirements (18 units). Contact your Program Coordinator for details.

Typical Program:

Two life sciences courses are included in the sample plan to indicate that a prerequisite may have to be fulfilled for students without prior exposure to coursework in the life sciences.

Year 1		
<i>Fall</i>	<i>Winter</i>	<i>Spring</i>
STA 200A	STA 200B	STA 200C
STA 206	STA 207	STA 135/Elective
STA 141A / Life Science	STA 135 / Life Science Elective	STA 243
Elective	BST 290	BST 290
Year 2		
<i>Fall</i>	<i>Winter</i>	
BST 222	BST 223	
Elective	STA 260	
Elective	Elective	
	BST 290	
	MS Exam	