Biostatistics
+ College for Public Health and Social Justice

Degree(s)
+ Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in biostatistics

Program Overview
A degree in biostatistics provides students with the skills they need to manage, analyze, and interpret biological, population, and health science data. Students explore the principles of mathematics, computer programming, statistics, and public health as they learn how the field of biostatistics helps improve the health of communities.

Biostatisticians apply statistical methods to identify risk factors in a given population to help address current and emerging public health problems. This major is a perfect fit for those interested in learning how mathematics and quantitative sciences are applied in improving health.

Additional degree options include:
+ Pre-med track: Students who aim to go to medical school can combine pre-med requirements with biostatistics and public health courses.
+ Honors courses: Students in the University Honors program can elect to take honors sections of major and core classes.

Why Choose SLU Biostatistics?
+ SLU is one of the few universities to offer an undergraduate program in biostatistics and the only Catholic, Jesuit university to offer this program.
+ SLU’s beautiful 800-acre campus, located in the heart of St. Louis, is always full of energy and activity.
+ The Bachelor of Science in biostatistics is part of STEM — or science, technology, engineering and mathematics — as it seeks to improve competitiveness in these areas.
+ The biostatistics program is rigorous and unique with an emphasis on applied statistics.

About the Faculty
Our faculty have an open-door policy and value being able to provide mentoring and other out-of-class help for students. Students also have the opportunity to interact with faculty and students across programs such as undergraduate, graduate and doctoral. Our faculty also have diverse research interests, including categorical, survival, longitudinal and functional data analysis; GIS and spatial analysis; and statistical quality control.

Curriculum
Classes for the biostatistics major are taught by the same faculty as SLU’s Master of public health program.

The curriculum for the B.S. in biostatistics includes 12 credit hours in biostatistics and 12 credit hours in computational skills along with 15 credit hours in mathematics and 12 credit hours in public health.

Course offerings include:
+ Applied Biostatistics I and II
+ Applied Data Management
+ Biological Basis of Public Health
+ Database Management System
+ Evidence-Based Public Health
+ Introduction to Epidemiology
+ Introduction to Global Health
+ Introduction to Information Technology Management
+ Introduction to Statistical Computing
+ Theory of Biostatistics I and II

Students in the biostatistics major are also encouraged to participate in immersion trips and study abroad. These programs help students understand the realities of difficult public health issues facing people and communities around the world.

Students have the opportunity to serve in communities in Honduras or Puebla, Mexico, using skills they have learned at Saint Louis University to benefit others. SLU also has a campus located in Madrid, Spain, where students can study abroad for a semester while taking public health core classes for full SLU credit.

Contact
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Learn More For course listings and more information about our faculty, visit publichealth.slu.edu.

Graduate Programs
+ Master of public health (M.P.H.) in biostatistics
For a full listing of graduate programs, visit graduate.slu.edu.

Revised April 2015
Admission Requirements

Freshman: All applications are thoroughly reviewed with the highest degree of individual care and consideration to all credentials that are submitted. Solid academic performance in college preparatory coursework is a primary concern in reviewing a freshman applicant’s file. College admission test scores (ACT or SAT) are used as an additional indicator of the student’s ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University and are used as qualifiers for certain University scholarship programs. To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, the applicant must be graduating from an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the General Education Development (GED) test.

Transfer: Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED. An official high school transcript and official test scores are required only of those students who have attempted fewer than 24 transferable semester hours (or 30 quarter hours) of college credit. Those having completed 24 hours or more of college credit need only submit a transcript from previously attended college(s). In reviewing a transfer applicant’s file, the office of admission holistically examines the student’s academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student’s ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University.

Internships and Careers

The 21st century has often been referred to as the era of information or data. Skilled biostatisticians are needed to manage and analyze this data to better understand and address the health problems facing communities around the globe.

Biostatisticians can look forward to careers in government, industry and academia. The job outlook for biostatisticians is excellent, as the U.S. government has recently reported a shortage of biostatistics professionals in the public health profession. The U.S. Bureau of Labor shows that the jobs for statisticians will grow by 27 percent from 2012 to 2020 much faster than the average of 11 percent for all occupations.

SLU has a strong service-learning component. Students can embody SLU’s Jesuit mission by using the knowledge they gain in the classroom to serve others. Service learning also provides valuable field experience for biostatistics students, and it helps them to be more connected with the St. Louis community and communities around the world.

Students can work as volunteers at health service providers for underprivileged communities and participate in University-wide service events such as Make A Difference Day. Students can also become members of the Public Health Club to get to know other biostatistics students and encounter additional service, internship and leadership opportunities.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

+ Scholarships: awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
+ Financial Aid: provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, applicants should apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For more information, visit the student financial services office online at finaid.slu.edu.

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