Biostatisticians apply statistical methods to identify risk factors in a given population to help address current and emerging public health problems. 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. 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 interested in going to medical school can combine pre-med requirements with biostatistics and public health coursework.
+ Honors Courses:
  Students in the SLU Honors program can take honors sections of several classes in the major.

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.

This major combines a liberal arts curriculum with 30 credit hours of public health and biostatistics courses.

The curriculum prepares students to:
+ Perform computations, derivations and calculations as they relate to calculus and linear algebra.
+ Use standard statistical software to create and manage datasets and perform basic statistical tests.
+ Appropriately communicate statistical results.
+ Apply the public health model to biostatistical work.
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 course work 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.

WHY CHOOSE THIS PROGRAM?

+ SLU is one of the few universities to offer an undergraduate degree in biostatistics and the only Catholic, Jesuit University to offer this program.
+ SLU’s Bachelor of Science in biostatistics is part of STEM — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — as it seeks to improve competitiveness in these areas.
+ The biostatistics program at SLU is rigorous and unique with an emphasis on applied statistics.

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.

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

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