Preface

The Department of Statistics at the University of Washington strives to maintain both instructional and research programs of the highest quality. The Ph.D. program provides cutting-edge training in the modern theory, methods, and applications of statistics. The Department believes that its graduates should blend a strong theoretical statistics foundation with practical experience working with challenging statistical problems in diverse areas of application. For this reason, the Department’s graduate programs, stressing this relationship of theory and practice, are designed to prepare the graduate equally well for an academic, industrial, or governmental position.

The Department would like each graduate student’s learning experience in the program to be as productive and rewarding as possible. To help build a successful experience, this handbook has been prepared to provide a variety of information that a graduate student might find useful during their time in the Statistics program. The information in this handbook, while extremely useful, should also be supplemented by individual consultation with faculty and staff, and appropriate departmental committees regarding advising on academic programs and requirements, financial assistantships, and other matters.

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The content of this document is updated annually every summer. If you find an error or a non-functioning link in it, please let us know at StatPhDadv@stat.uw.edu.
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1 Getting started
This chapter covers basic information that all incoming Ph.D. students in the Department of Statistics should be aware of. Additional information specific to incoming international students can be found as part of the “International students” chapter.

1.1 Getting a UW NetID
A UW NetID allows you to log in to MyUW and other University websites, including your UW email. At the time you applied to the program you should have received an email invitation to create your UW NetID. However, if you did not do so at the time, you can do it now by visiting the UW NetID website. The same link can be used to recover a forgotten NetID. If that is the case, select the option for “I already have a UW NetID” and on the next page “I forgot my UW NetID”. If you are unsure if you have one select “I don't have a UW NetID (or I'm not sure)” from the first page.

1.2 Getting a University ID (Husky Card)
The Husky Card serves as your University ID and allows you access to several campus services, including transportation and library services, activities and entertainment, and access to certain campus buildings. Please see Housing and Food Services website for additional details on the services built into your Husky Card.

You may obtain your Husky Card by visiting the Husky Card Account & ID Center, located on the ground floor of the Odegaard Undergraduate Library during regular office hours. You will need to have your UW student ID number and be required to show a U.S. state- or federally issued photo identification with you (such as a driver’s license or passport). For additional information, please visit the student Husky Card site.

1.3 Department facilities
The Department of Statistics occupies space on the second and third floor of the Padelford Hall building, mostly in wings B and C. Padelford Hall is a very peculiar building, with several dead-end corridors and can be difficult to navigate.

The main administrative office suite for the department is located in B-313. Copier, network printers, individual mailboxes, office supplies, and a small kitchen are in B-313D. The department also manages two meeting rooms, C-301 (capacity for 25 people) and C-302 (capacity for 6 people). Finally, B-302A is the department’s Multipurpose Room, which serves as a student lounge, as well as the main venue for social events.

You can make reservations for the conference rooms (C-301 and/or C-302) by contacting any staff member at office@stat.uw.edu. To check availability, please refer to the schedules available from our resource page. Please note that the department reserves the right to cancel your conference room reservations if the room is needed for administrative meetings relating to the department (e.g., faculty meetings).

1.4 Office and Desk Assignments
All Ph.D. students in the Statistics program are assigned individual desks in shared office space in Padelford Hall. Office assignments are managed by the Graduate Student Representatives (GSRs), and
every effort is made to make office assignments for incoming students before the start of autumn quarter classes. If at any point you want to be reassigned to a different office, please contact the GSRs.

Students can request external monitors for their desk to be used with the student’s personal laptop. The department also does its best to accommodate other ad-hoc equipment requests. In case of doubt please ask. However, please note that we do not typically provide external keyboards and mouse. If you have a request of this type, please email office@stat.uw.edu.

1.5 Keys and access codes
Access to most Padelford facilities requires physical keys. By default, Ph.D. students are provided with the following:

- A key to their assigned Statistics shared Grad office in Padelford
- The door entry code to the main Statistics Administrative office (B-313) and the department “MPR” Multipurpose Room (B-302A)

A member of the department’s staff oversees the distribution and collection of physical keys. They typically reach out to the incoming Ph.D. students via UW email prior to the start of fall quarter to complete the required key agreement form before issuing keys. Any other keys (i.e., second floor printer key, Padelford building key, etc.) can be issued upon request. If there are any questions regarding keys, please contact office@stat.uw.edu.

1.6 Orientation
As a new student, there are several mandatory and non-mandatory orientation events happening during the month of September that you should be aware of:

University 501 (U501) is a self-guided, online resource designed for graduate and professional students at all three campuses and is intended to help prepare you for your arrival to and start at the University of Washington. You may access U501 any time at grad.uw.edu/u501. U501 is open to all incoming and current graduate students (after confirming enrollment) with a valid NetID and is divided into five (5) modules. Once you have joined the course, you can access it anytime from anywhere with an internet connection. While U501 is not mandatory, it is highly recommended for all incoming students. For details, please refer to the Graduate School website.

The Department holds a two-day mandatory orientation event the week before the start of the Autumn quarter. Information about this event is usually shared by email about mid-July. The departmental orientation provides you with opportunities to meet and interact face to face while acclimating to the Department, hearing some faculty talks, learning what life as a graduate student is like, and much more.

The department requires all incoming Ph.D. students in the Statistics Ph.D. program to participate in the Teaching Assistant training program sponsored by the Center for Teaching and Training. The program includes sessions that are specifically designed for international graduate student TAs who identify as not native speakers of English. Participation in these special sessions is required by the Graduate School before an international graduate student can start work as a TA at the UW. Information about this event is usually shared by email in early July. If you did not receive the information, or you are unable to participate in the program, please contact the Graduate Program Advisor at StatPhDadv@stat.uw.edu.
The University of Washington provides special welcome programming for all its new international students and scholars through the FIUTS program. One important component of the FIUTS program is the Embark session, which is mandatory for all new international students on F-1 or J-1 visas. During your Embark session you will:

- Connect with other new and returning students
- Prepare for your cultural transition to the UW and U.S.
- Learn more about maintaining your legal status with the U.S. government while studying at UW.

1.7 Registration
Students register via MyUW on registration date indicated in the Academic Calendar. Please refer to the Registration Resources for information regarding:

- Registering with SLNs
- Notify.UW Course Notifications
- Pre-registration Process
- Pre-requisite Map
- Schedule Finder
- Time Schedule

You can view the official list of courses that are offered each quarter by consulting the quarterly time schedule. Dates for when the quarterly time schedules become available are located here.

The deadlines for quarterly registrations for the coming academic year are available here. This is the last day on which you can make changes to your registration via MyUW. Adding or dropping courses after this date requires you to fill in additional forms and maybe subject to a $20 fee and, where applicable, tuition forfeiture. If you need to add or drop courses late, please contact the Graduate Program Advisor at StatPhDadv@stat.uw.edu.

1.8 Getting paid
The most convenient way to get paid through UW is via direct deposit. To set up direct deposit you should first login to Workday, the UW payroll software system. Once you have logged in:

1. Click on the Pay icon
2. Click in Payment Elections
3. Add your bank account information
4. Go to your Workday Inbox
5. Select the Add Payment Elections
6. Select Submit

Note that setting up a direct deposit requires that you have a US bank account. If you do not have one, please see “Opening a US Bank Account“ section under “International Students“. For more details about direct deposit, please see the Integrated Services Center webpage and follow the instructions on the “Payment Elections Quick Guide“ tab.
1.9 E-Mail

As a graduate student, you will have access to a UW email account; the beginning of your @uw.edu email address corresponds to your UW NetID. You can typically setup your email shortly after you accept our admission offer. To setup your email you will need to choose to which system you would like your email delivered. The UW offers a choice between two world-class, cloud-based email services: UW Exchange Online (part of UW Office 365) and UW Gmail (part of UW Google). Both email services also include cloud-based productivity and collaboration tool suites. You may choose to have your email delivered to whichever system you are most comfortable with.

Both systems are different from their consumer counterparts (e.g., @gmail.com or @outlook.com) in that they are free of advertising, have greater privacy protection, and offers cloud-based productivity and collaboration tool suites. No matter which system you choose for your email, you will still be able to access the productivity suite of the other system (e.g., if you have your email delivered to UW Google you can still access MS Word Online to create and share documents.)

**Important information for Academic Student Employees:** If you expect to have an assignment as a Reader/Grader, Teaching Assistant, or Pre-doctoral Instructor you are required to use one of the systems above to protect other students’ privacy and adhere to FERPA regulations. The use of personal accounts (e.g., @hotmail.com or @gmail.com) for these roles are strictly prohibited.

1.10 Departmental mailing lists and Slack channels

Shortly after you create your UW email, you will be automatically subscribed to several departmental mailing lists, including statdept@stat.washington.edu (used for official departments announcements and notifications), statseminars@stat.washington.edu (used for departmental seminar announcements), statgrads@stat.washington.edu (used for official announcements of interest to all Stat graduate students) and statphd@stat.washington.edu (used for official announcements of interest to Statistics Ph.D. students). Because these lists are used for official announcements, you must remain subscribed to them while you are part of the program. You can find more information about the departmental mailing lists [here](#).

There are two student-managed slack channels that you might want to join. The first one, uwstat.slack.com only includes graduate students in the Statistics Department, while uw-stat-biostat.slack.com is shared with the Biostats department. To join the channel, you will need a UW email address. The department slack is a way to connect with other students in the department for school and social events. There are channels for classes, seminar discussions (#seminar), union information (#union), social plans (#socialplans) and others.

1.11 Directory Information

Your directory information is managed centrally through UW’s online directory. You are strongly encouraged to check the “Publish your information in the UW Directory” box at a minimum. The boxes for email and address are optional but recommended if you want to ensure others at the UW can find your contact information. If your legal name is different from what you regularly use, you can set a “Preferred Name”. This will be used across campus wherever systems support it.

Once you have been added to the Statistics website, you may edit additional personal information such your Statistics website bio, link to your personal homepage, pronouns and more using department's
personal information tool. You must be on a campus network or connected to the Husky OnNet VPN to access this resource, please see below.

1.12 Computing
The UW provides first-class IT services to all its students, faculty and staff. These include the Husky OnNet VPN, Campus Wireless and UW Zoom, among others. In addition to these services provided centrally by the University, the Department of Statistics provides an array of resources designed to support learning and research. Departmental resources include:

- Web hosting: https://sites.stat.washington.edu/people/NETID/
- Email alias: NETID@stat.uw.edu – This automatically points to your @uw.edu address
- Linux general purposes servers
- Windows Terminal Servers
- Compute Cluster (+1k cores, +10TB memory) – Requires endorsement of your Faculty advisor
- Printing

Access to all computing resources is secured by your UW NetID (see above: Getting a UW NetID). Most departmental resources require a Statistics Computing Recharge Account. These are typically requested on behalf of supported students prior to the start of the academic year. For students not receiving department support, contact office@stat.uw.edu to inquire about self-pay options.

Connecting to most departmental computing resources, apart from webhosting, requires a campus network connection (wired or wireless) or, from Off-Campus, connecting via the Husky OnNet VPN or similar service. Further details about all the departmental computing resources can be found on the department’s “how to” page.

For all departmental computing related requests email: help@stat.uw.edu. For all web related requests email: webmaster@stat.uw.edu.

1.13 Library resources
As a UW student, you have access to the UW libraries. This includes access to digital versions of most statistics journals. This page provides detailed information about UW library resources that support graduate students. You might also be interested in learning about the UW Libraries Research Commons, which is located on the ground floor of the Allen South Library. The Libraries Research Commons provides a collaborative environment in which students and faculty can come together to share and discuss research, as well as get support for all steps of the research process: searching, writing, publishing, funding. Note that access to UW library resources from off-campus requires the use of the Husky OnNet VPN or similar service.

1.14 Moving to Seattle and Arranging for Housing
Moving to Seattle can be daunting! The UW CSE department made a great guide describing where people tend to live during their graduate studies. Note, however, that students in the CSE program are paid a little more than those in our program, so you may want to look for housing that’s a little less expensive than what the CSE department suggests.
In addition to the resources that are in the previous link, we also have a housing survey for statistics and biostatistics students that is sent out around June or July that aims to provide connections to other students looking for housing. Also, students may post emails to our statgrads@stat.washington.edu email address or Slack messages (see above) looking for housing or finding roommates. Finally, Seattle has a program to aid in paying for utilities for low-income individuals, which you can find out more about here.

1.15 Transportation and parking
A variety of transportation and parking products and options are available to students. For more information, please refer to Transportation Services website.

1.16 Community
The department hosts several formal and informal events meant to create opportunities for interactions among its members and foster a sense of community

- Orientation: All incoming students should attend our orientation, usually in late September, the week before classes start. (See above, “Orientation”)
- Department hike: The department generally sponsors a hike that occurs a few weeks after classes begin. Watch out for an email with details!
- Statistics/biostatistics dinner: Most years, a dinner is organized to meet all members of the statistics and biostatistics community. This is usually a few weeks after classes start.
- Department lunches: Throughout the year, the students and faculty are invited to bring their own lunch and eat together once a week. Watch out for emails with details!
- Fun committee events: Our department has a fun committee that sponsors social events throughout the year. In the past, this included a happy hour (Padelford Pub) with beverages and snacks, as well as a book club, kayaking trips, and many more!
- Intramural sports: Many years, intramural sports have been organized within our department to compete with other organizations around campus. We often have ultimate frisbee and soccer teams!
- Department seminar: Throughout the year, speakers from other institutions and departments give talks. Many members of our department join these talks and it is a great opportunity to learn about research and get together with students and faculty.
- The Diversity, Inclusion, Community and Equity (DICE) committee: The Department of Statistics is committed to building a diverse, equitable and inclusive community. This committee includes both faculty and students and is in charge of organizing activities that foster these goals.

1.17 Graduate student representatives
Graduate Student Representatives serve as a liaison between the department faculty and the graduate students. Among other tasks, they meet regularly with Department leadership about policies and issues related to graduate students and postdoctoral researchers who are part of the department, attend department meetings, and are ex-officio members of the Diversity, Inclusion, Community and Equity and the Teaching and Curriculum Committees. Graduate Student Representatives are very knowledgeable and can often provide useful informal advice. Furthermore, any problems or concerns that a student
has but cannot directly approach the faculty with can be taken to the Graduate Student Representatives. Graduate Students Representatives are elected by the students and receive compensation for their contributions to the department.

The Graduate Student Representatives for 2022-2023 are Apara Venkat (he/him), aparav@uw.edu, and Jess Kunke (she/her), jkunke@uw.edu.
2 Program information

2.1 Learning Outcomes
Students who complete the Ph.D. program are expected to be able to:

1. Articulate research problems, potentials, and limits with respect to the theories, methodologies, and/or applications of statistics.
2. Formulate ideas, concepts, designs, and methods beyond the current boundaries of knowledge within statistics.
3. Create research that makes a substantive contribution to theoretical and/or applied statistics.
4. Demonstrate breadth in the theories, methodologies, and applications of statistics.
5. Advance contributions of statistics to society.
6. Communicate complex ideas in a clear and understandable manner.
7. Maintain ethical and professional conduct.

2.2 Graduation Requirements
In order to receive a Ph.D. in Statistics at UW, students must satisfy the graduation requirements laid out below. These include Graduate School requirements that apply to all Ph.D. programs at UW, as well as department-specific requirements such as satisfactorily completing core and elective courses, passing the M.S. Theory Exam, passing the Ph.D. Research Prelim, passing the Consulting class and completing the Applied Data Analysis Project, completing the Seminar and Teaching experiences, passing the General Exam, registering for a minimum number of Thesis Research credits, and passing their Dissertation Defense.

Note that students in the Statistics Ph.D. program might elect to pursue either the general Statistics track of the program, or one of the four specialized tracks that take advantage of UW’s interdisciplinary environment: Statistical Genetics (StatGen), Statistics in the Social Sciences (CSSS), Machine Learning and Big Data (MLBD), and Advanced Data Science (ADS). This section describes first the requirement for the general Statistics track, and then discusses the relevant modification associated with each of the specialized tracks. Requirement checklists for each track can be found on the Department’s form page.

2.2.1 General Graduate School requirements
In order to qualify for the doctoral degree, students must satisfy the minimum requirements laid out by the Graduate School, which are common to all doctoral degrees at UW.

2.2.2 Core courses
Satisfactory performance in the following courses:

- Advanced Statistical Theory: STAT 581, STAT 582 and STAT 583. An average of at least 3.0 on these three courses is required for performance to be considered satisfactory. Please note that STAT 581 has STAT 513 as a prerequisite. Students who have not taken STAT 513 require a permission code to enroll in STAT 581.
- Statistical Methodology: STAT 570 and STAT 571. A minimum GPA of 3.0 on each course is required for performance to be considered satisfactory. Please note that STAT 570 has STAT
502, STAT 504, STAT 512 and STAT 513 as prerequisites. Students who have not taken these prerequisite courses require a permission code to enroll in STAT 570.

- Statistical Computing: STAT 534. A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required for performance to be considered satisfactory.
- Measure Theory / Analysis: Either STAT 559 or MATH 574-575-576 or equivalent. A minimum GPA of 3.0 on average is required for performance to be considered satisfactory.

Please note that a minimum of 2.7 is required in each graded course that is counted toward a graduate degree, and a quarterly and cumulative grade point average of 3.0 in order to make satisfactory progress towards the degree (see “Grade policies and requirements” Section below).

Note that the Statistical Computing and the Measure Theory / Analysis core course requirements can be waived. Please see the “Requirement waivers” section below for details.

2.2.3 Elective courses
Satisfactory performance (a minimum GPA of 3.0 on average) in a minimum of four approved 500-level classes that form a coherent set, as approved in writing by the Graduate Program Coordinator. Each elective course must be worth at least 3 credits, and all elective courses need to be taken for a numerical grade.

Suitable elective courses in Statistics include 516-517, 535-538, 521-522-523, 519-520-530, 542, and 544. Suitable courses offered by other departments include BIOST 533, EE 512, GENOM 562, MATH 516 and SOC 533. This is not an exhaustive list. Many other classes, in Statistics, Biostatistics, CS&SS among other departments, are also suitable. Furthermore, if you are pursuing one of the four specialized tracks you might be able to count some or all the track-specific courses towards your elective courses. Students should consult the Graduate Program Coordinator and their Academic and Research Advisors regarding appropriate sets of four or more classes.

While the program requires only 4 electives, many students choose to take additional elective courses during the third and fourth year of the program to broaden their knowledge of the field.

2.2.4 M.S. Theory Exam
The goal of the M.S. Theory Exam is to ensure that students have the core mathematical and statistical knowledge required for them to be successful in the Ph.D. program. The exam typically takes place in mid-June and consists of 6 questions that cover the material in STAT 512 and STAT 513. Except in very special circumstances, students take the M.S. Theory Exam at the end of their first year in the program, after completing STAT 512 and STAT 513.

There are three possible outcomes for the M.S. Theory Exam: Pass at the Ph.D. level, Pass at the M.S. level, or Fail.

- Ph.D. students must pass the M.S. Theory Exam at the Ph.D. level in order to continue in the Ph.D. program, unless otherwise waived (see the “Requirement waivers” section below). Ph.D. students who do not pass at the Ph.D. level are allowed to retake the exam for a second time the following year and might be placed in probation until the requirement is satisfied. The
department has a firm policy of asking students who have not passed the M.S. Theory Exam at the Ph.D. level after two attempts to leave the program and of not continuing financial support.

- Ph.D. students who pass the M.S. Theory Exam at the M.S. level are allowed to switch to the concurrent track of the Statistics M.S. and use the coursework they completed previously at UW to satisfy the requirements of the M.S. program.
- Students who Fail the M.S. Theory Exam twice are typically asked to leave the program and cannot switch to any other program hosted by the Department of Statistics.

The thresholds for the M.S. and Ph.D. level passes in the exam can vary slightly from year to year. They are decided by the faculty during a meeting held to evaluate the results of the exam. This decision is made upon a recommendation from the members of the exam committee. The thresholds depend on the perceived difficulty of the exam and the overall distribution of grades. All decisions on passing thresholds are based on blinded scores in order to minimize the possibility of bias.

The department offers individual tutoring to students who struggle with STAT 512/513 or who have failed the M.S. Theory Exam and are getting ready to retake it. Please contact both the course instructor(s) and the Ph.D. Program Coordinator to request tutoring.

Students with an M.S. degree who have previously taken courses with content that is similar to that of STAT 512 and STAT 513 can request a waiver for the M.S. Theory Exam. There is also an option for taking a placement exam that can waive the M.S. Theory Exam. Please see the “Requirement waivers” Section below for details.

2.2.5 Research Prelim Exam

The goal of the Research Prelim Exam is to evaluate a student’s readiness for Ph.D. research in Statistics. To this end, each student will read an approved paper from the statistical literature (chosen from a predetermined list generated by the instructor(s) assigned to STAT 572 with input from the faculty at large) and will present an in-depth study of it, both as a talk and as a written report. Students must show a thorough understanding of the methods described in the paper and should typically replicate the theoretical and experimental results in the paper. Students are also expected to go beyond the scope of the original paper in their report, for example, by including a discussion of where the paper fits in the broader literature or adding an additional related result, comparison or analysis. The date of the Research Prelim Exam varies slightly each year, but it is typically held during the last two weeks of June.

The Research Prelim Exam involves both the preparation of a written report and an oral presentation. The report should be written in the style of a journal paper and should be no more than 20 pages, double-spaced, including all key Figures and Tables. It should have sections such as Introduction or Background, Methods or Model, Implementation or Results, and Conclusion or Discussion. It should have a Bibliography, and papers should be cited in a standard style. Appendices including Supplementary Material may also be submitted, but these will not necessarily be read by the faculty examiners. An important part of writing papers is to learn to present essentials fully and clearly yet concisely. Oral presentations will normally be scheduled at one-hour intervals. The first part of the exam is open to graduate students and faculty of the Department of Statistics. In this part, the student should expect to present for 25 to 30 minutes; with questions following, this open portion of the exam will total 30 to 35 minutes. A closed session normally of 10 to 15 minutes will follow in which the faculty
examiners will further discuss the exam with the student. A brief period is allowed between exams, for the faculty to further discuss the exam outcome.

The outcome of the Research Prelim Exam is decided by vote in a faculty meeting, based on the report and recommendation from the Exam Committee and further faculty discussion. There are three possible outcomes for the exam: Pass, Conditional Pass, and Fail. If the faculty votes on Conditional Pass, the conditions and additional work for converting the Conditional Pass to a Pass are also decided at the same faculty meeting. The student who is given a Conditional Pass must contact the Exam Committee members to get detailed feedback on the work and improvements in performance required from them to convert the Conditional Pass. When the student has satisfied these requirements, the Exam Committee verifies them and reports to the faculty, with a further recommendation to Fail or Pass. The faculty again votes on the outcome. The Exam Committee may choose the modality to verify the requirements (e.g., further questions, an additional written report, further experiments) depending on the nature of the requirements.

As with the M.S. Theory Exam, students may only take the Research Prelim Exam a total of two times. If a student fails the first time, they have one more opportunity to pass the exam the following year but may be placed on probation until the requirement is satisfied. If a student fails the second time, they will be asked to leave the program.

Students are required to register for STAT 572 during Spring quarter to prepare for the prelim exam. STAT 572 is restricted to Ph.D. students and aims to help participants develop skills in reading, understanding and critiquing contributions to literature. Since preparing the Research Prelim Report requires sustained effort that is greater than a typical term-paper, STAT 572 provides a timeline with milestones and targets. However, the class is not the prelim, and the format of the final written report and oral presentation might somewhat differ from those used in STAT 572. Note that students retaking the Research Prelim Exam are expected to repeat STAT 572.

One additional resource available to students who are taking the Research Prelim are mentors. Research Prelim mentors are typically postdocs or faculty in the department who possess specialized knowledge that is directly relevant to the topic of the paper assigned to a given student. Students enrolled in STAT 572 are assigned a Research Prelim mentor by the course instructors at the beginning of the quarter.

2.2.6 Consulting
Students must enroll in at least 3 credits of STAT 599 (Consulting), which is typically offered jointly with BIOST 590. This requirement can be waived only for students who have had substantial data analysis and consulting experience prior to joining the Ph.D. program (see the “Requirement waivers” section below).

2.2.7 Applied Data Analysis Project (ADAP)
Students must also complete a collaborative Applied Data Analysis project. The aim of the project should be to carry out a data analysis that is motivated by a substantive scientific question in a field of study. The project must be of larger scope and time commitment than can be addressed by students during STAT 599, roughly commensurate with the workload of a three-credit-hour course. Please note that completing the Consulting requirement is a prerequisite to the Applied Data Analysis Project.
Students are responsible for finding a client with a real research problem involving a substantial data analysis component. A substantial number of suitable projects are likely to arise from clients of the regular consulting class (STAT 599/BIOSTAT 590) who have data analysis projects that are too large and require too much ongoing collaboration to be handled in the consulting class. Typically, a few such projects arise each quarter. However, students may find projects on their own and they are encouraged to consult with Statistics, Biostatistics or other faculty for possible projects.

The client for the Applied Data Analysis Project cannot be a professional statistician. Instead, the client must work in a field outside of Statistics or Biostatistics. However, a professional consulting statistician associated with the research project may be involved in a supervisory role. If that is the case, the student will be asked to explain in your proposal how their task is different from those of any other statistician involved in the project (please see below). The student’s main Research Advisor cannot be your client for the Applied Data Analysis Project, even if they are in a different department.

Students are permitted (but not required) to be paid for the work they do on this data analysis project. Paid work may be carried out either under an RA, usually in the client’s department, or for hourly wages paid through the Department of Statistics’ Center for Statistical Consulting. International students should consult with the University of Washington International Student Services office regarding opportunities and constraints on payment for work satisfying this consulting requirement.

Before starting work on the Data Analysis Project, a proposal needs to be submitted and approved by the department’s Consulting Committee. In order to allow sufficient time for approval, students intending to enroll in the course in the following quarter should submit their proposal by week 8 of the previous quarter or by the first week of September for Fall quarter. Once the proposal has been approved and a student is ready to start work on the project, they should enroll in 3 credits of STAT 597 with one of the members of the Consulting Committee. Please note STAT 597 is offered during the academic year but not in Summer quarter. Please contact statPhDadv@stat.uw.edu for enrollment details. If there is anyone else on this project who has statistical knowledge, the proposal must explain how the task is delimited, because the Consulting project is aimed to be an independent work from the statistical point of view. If a student is unsure on this point, they should ask the client for an email explaining the nature of the work and then pass these details to the Consulting Committee.

The project will require a written report on the results of the analysis. Length of the report: at most 10 pages, with an additional 3 pages allowed to accommodate figures only; references are not counted towards this page limit. The report must be written to address the scientific aims and needs of the client, and in a language accessible to a non-specialist. It should generally follow the guidelines for written reports for the statistical consulting class (STAT 599). The report should be submitted to the Consulting Committee within one quarter of the date of approval of the project. If the report is not submitted by the end of the quarter in which the student registers for STAT 597, the student will receive an Incomplete grade, which will be converted to a Pass should the project subsequently be approved. The Consulting Committee will review the completed project and make a decision, typically within one month of submission if submitted during the academic year. Input from the client may be submitted, but the client will not have a formal vote on approval of the Applied Data Analysis Project.
Students who have had substantial consulting experience may request to waive this requirement on this basis. Furthermore, students in the MLBD or ADS tracks of the program can use STAT 571 to waive this requirement. For details, please see the “Requirement waivers” section.

2.2.8 Statistics seminar participation
At least 8 quarters of STAT 590. Students are strongly encouraged to enroll in STAT 590 every quarter and to attend the associated seminars.

2.2.9 Teaching requirement
Ph.D. students must satisfactorily serve as a Teaching Assistant for at least one quarter.

2.2.10 General exam
The General Exam is a presentation and defense of the student’s completed and future dissertation research. In addition to ensuring that students are making appropriate progress towards degree, the General Examination serves to provide feedback to the student about whether the proposed dissertation is likely to be a significant contribution to knowledge, as required by Graduate School policy. The Exam is based on an oral presentation that should cover research completed by the student that is expected to be part of their dissertation, as well as a description of future dissertation projects. The presentation is typically limited to 45 minutes and is followed by a period of open questions from the general public, and then by the Exam itself, which is attended only by the student and the Supervisory Committee members. The General Exam can be scheduled only after the student has completed at least 60 credits and has successfully passed the M.S. Theory Exam and the Research Prelim Exam. More details on the Graduate School policy pertaining to the General Exam can be found here.

To begin the process of scheduling your General Exam, the student will first need to have their Supervisory Committee approved by the Graduate School, and get the Supervisory Committee agreement on the date, time, and location. See “Supervisory Committee” section under “Advising and Mentorships” for additional details, including its membership. The General Exam can happen no sooner than three weeks from the date on which the scheduling request is submitted to the department. If the Supervisory Committee has not received prior approval, the student will need an additional two weeks of lead time for the Graduate School to set up the committee before the General Exam can proceed.

The second step in scheduling the General Exam is to reserve a room by emailing office@stat.uw.edu. Then, the student will need to submit two online forms:

- The on-line application for the General Exam with the Graduate School.
- The General Exam Announcement Form with the Department.

Prior to the General Exam, the Committee Signature Form will be generated and given to the Supervisory Committee Chair (unless otherwise requested by the Committee Chair). At that point, the student’s file/record is available to the Committee. After the exam, the Committee Chair (not the student) gives the original, signed Committee Signature Form to the Graduate Advisor. Please note that Committee Signature Forms are processed at the department level and should not be sent to the Graduate School.
If any member(s) and/or the student needs to participate in an exam but cannot be physically present, the Graduate School allows for virtual examinations under certain conditions. Please see the Graduate School Website on Instructions for Virtual Doctoral Examinations, as well as Graduate School Memo 13. The Statistics Department does not have any additional requirements for the examination beyond those established by the Graduate School.

2.2.11 Dissertation credits
A minimum of 27 credits of STAT 800, spread over at least three quarters. Note that, except for summer quarter, students are limited to a maximum of 10 credits per quarter of STAT 800. Since students who are taking STAT 800 are supposed to be working on their dissertation, the department expects that any student enrolling in STAT 800 will have at least formally formed their Supervisory Committee and, in most cases, to also have passed their General Exam.

2.2.12 Dissertation defense
The Dissertation Defense, or Final exam, is a public presentation of the results of the student's research. A dissertation is expected to be a significant contribution to knowledge, as well as an acceptable piece of scholarly writing. Graduate school policy pertaining to the Dissertation Defense can be found here. Note that a student may not take both the General Exam and Final Exam in the same quarter.

Students must obtain the concurrence of the Reading Committee before the process to schedule the Dissertation Defense can be started. The Reading Committee will take up to 4 weeks to read the dissertation and confirm that the student is ready to defend their dissertation. It then takes up to three weeks to schedule the Exam and find a room. Thus, students should provide their Reading Committee with a copy of the dissertation at least 7 (=4+3) weeks before the intended date of the defense.

The process to schedule the Dissertation Defense cannot be started until all members of the reading committee have approved it to move forward in writing. The date of the Dissertation Defense is typically set no sooner than three weeks from the date on which the last Reading Committee member has given their approval. Once the student has agreed with their Supervisory Committee on the date of the Dissertation Defense and have ensured room availability by emailing office@stat.uw.edu, they will need to submit two online forms:

- The on-line Doctoral Final Examination application form at the Graduate School website.
- The Final Exam Announcement Form with your exam information at the department website.

As was pointed out before, these online forms need to be submitted at least three weeks before the Final Exam. Prior to the Final Exam, the Committee Signature Form will be generated and given to the Supervisory Committee Chair (unless otherwise requested by the Committee Chair). At that point, the student's file/record is (again) available to the Committee. After the exam, the Committee Chair (not the student) gives the original, signed Committee Signature Form to the Graduate Advisor. Please note that Committee Signature Forms are processed at the department level and should not be sent to the Graduate School.

If any member(s) and/or the student needs to participate in an exam but cannot be physically present, the Graduate School allows for virtual examinations under certain conditions. Please see the Graduate
School Website on Instructions for Virtual Doctoral Examinations, as well as Graduate School Memo 13. The Statistics Department does not have any additional requirements for the examination beyond those established by the Graduate School.

2.2.13 Optional tracks

Students in the Statistics Ph.D. program might elect to pursue one of the four specialized tracks that take advantage of UW’s interdisciplinary environment: Statistical Genetics (StatGen), Statistics in the Social Sciences (CSSS), Machine Learning and Big Data (MLBD), or Advanced Data Science (ADS). The StatGen and ADS are transcriptable tracks, i.e., the fact the student completed the requirements for the track is noted in their transcript. On the other hand, the CSSS and MLBD tracks are not transcriptable. Please note that, while the student’s Ph.D. degree will be in Statistics, their status as a participant in one of the transcriptable tracks is recorded in the Graduate School, and the Graduate School system has a separate sub-code for each of these. It is therefore important that the student’s pathway choice is recorded with the Graduate School when the student establishes their Ph.D. Supervisory Committee.

Students pursuing the Statistical Genetics (StatGen) Ph.D. track are required to take BIOST/STAT 550 and BIOST/STAT 551, GENOME 562 and GENOME 540 or GENOME 541. These courses may be counted as the four required Ph.D.-level electives mentioned in Section 2.2.3. Additionally, students are expected to participate in the Statistical Genetics Seminar (BIOST 581) in addition to participating in the statistics seminar (STAT 590). Finally, students in the Statistics Statistical Genetics Ph.D. pathway may take STAT 516-517 instead of STAT 570-571 for their Statistical Methodology core requirement. This is a transcriptable program option, i.e., the fact that the student completed the requirements will be noted in their transcript. Note: GENOME 562 is not currently being offered. For alternatives (such as GENOME 565), please discuss with the Graduate Program Coordinator.

Students in the Statistics in the Social Sciences (CSSS) Ph.D. track are required to take four numerically graded 500-level courses, including at least two CSSS courses or STAT courses cross-listed with CSSS, and at most two discipline-specific social science courses that together form a coherent program of study. These courses may be counted as the four required Ph.D.-level electives mentioned in Section 2.2.3. Additionally, students must complete at least three quarters of participation (one credit per quarter) in the CS&SS seminar (CSSS 590). This is not a transcriptable option, i.e., the fact that the student completed the requirements will not be noted in their transcript.

Students in the Machine Learning and Big Data (MLBD) Ph.D. track are required to take the following courses: one foundational machine learning course (STAT 535), one advanced machine learning course (either STAT 538 or STAT 548 / CSE 547), one breadth course (either on databases, CSE 544, or data visualization, CSE 512), and one additional elective course (STAT 538, STAT 548, CSE 515, CSE 512, CSE 544 or EE 578). At most two of these four courses may be counted as part of the four required PhD-level electives mentioned in Section 2.2.3. Students pursuing this track are not required to take STAT 583 and can use STAT 571 to satisfy the Applied Data Analysis Project requirement. This is not a transcriptable option, i.e., the fact that the student completed the requirements will not be noted in their transcript.

Students in the Advanced Data Science (ADS) Ph.D. track are required to take the same coursework as students in the Machine Learning and Big Data track. They are also not required to take STAT 583 and can use STAT 571 to satisfy the Applied Data Analysis Project requirement. The only difference in terms
of requirements between the MLBD and the ADS tracks is that students in the ADS track must also register for at least 4 quarters of the weekly eScience Community Seminar (CHEM E 599). Also, unlike the MLBD track, the ADS is a transcriptable program option, i.e., the fact that the student completed the requirements will be noted in their transcript.

2.3 Grade policies and requirements
UW’s grading policies for graduate students are set by the Graduate School. In particular, note that a minimum of 2.7 is required in each graded course that is counted toward a graduate degree, and that courses graded on CR/NC can be used to satisfy program requirements except when explicitly noted otherwise in this handbook.

Additional policies related to grades are contained in the general Doctoral Degree Requirements and Memo 16: Academic Performance and Progress. In particular, all students are required to maintain a minimum cumulative and quarterly 3.0 GPA while enrolled in the UW Graduate School, and a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 is required for graduation.

2.4 Requirement waivers
Students who have completed an M.S. program in Statistics or who have otherwise taken equivalent coursework or participated in relevant professional activities before joining our Ph.D. program and, in some cases while they pursue the Ph.D. program, may request waivers for the following requirements. Requests are submitted through the online form available here. Please note that separate waiver requests need to be submitted for each requirement.

- M.S. Theory Exam: Students who have previously taken courses with content that is similar to that of STAT 512 and STAT 513 can request a waiver for the M.S. Theory Exam. Students who are granted this waiver move on to take STAT 581 / STAT 582 / STAT 583 during their first year in the program. Students must request a waiver for the M.S. Theory Exam no later than the first Friday of September in their first year in the program. Decisions are typically issued the third week of September. Students who are not granted a waiver of the M.S. Theory Exam based on their previous coursework have the opportunity to take an optional placement exam the week immediately before the start of their first quarter in the program. Students who pass the placement exam are also waived the M.S. Theory Exam and can move on to take STAT 581 / STAT 582 / STAT 583 in their first year.

- Statistical Computing core course requirement: Students who have previously taken equivalent courses can request that this course be waived. Students must request a waiver for this core course requirement no later than the last day of the Winter quarter of their first year in the program.

- Measure Theory / Analysis core course requirement: Students who have previously taken equivalent courses can request that this course be waived. Students must request a waiver for this core course requirement no later than the last day of the Winter quarter of their first year in the program.

- Consulting requirement: Students who are appointed and satisfactorily complete their responsibilities as the CSSS Consulting RA for three quarters or have an equivalent length of
work experience involving independent statistical consulting with multiple clients and across multiple research areas may request the consulting course (STAT 599) requirement waived.

- **Applied Data Analysis Project:** As with the consulting requirement, students can petition for a waiver of this requirement based on previous or other proposed consulting work experience. Waiver requests on account of experience acquired before the Ph.D. program must be submitted no later than the end of the student’s first quarter in the program. If the student plans to request a waiver of the ADAP requirement on account of work experience or an internship initiated during their enrollment in Statistics at the U.W., they must submit a waiver request through the webform no later than the quarter directly following the internship. The committee may request additional documentation to evaluate whether the work experience satisfies the ADAP requirement. Additionally, students in the MLBD or ADS tracks of the program are permitted to substitute STAT 571 in place of this requirement.

Students are strongly encouraged to discuss with their Academic Advisor about any waivers before requesting them. If you have further questions about the waiver process and eligibility, please contact the Graduate Program Advisor at statPhDadv@stat.uw.edu.

### 2.5 Normative time to degree

The normative time to degree for the Statistics Ph.D. program is five years. Historically, some students who have completed an M.S. degree in Statistics before being admitted into the program have been able to complete the Ph.D. program in four years.

According to Graduate School policy, all doctoral degree requirements must be completed within ten years. This includes quarters spent On-Leave or out of status, as well as applicable work from the master’s degree from the UW or a master’s degree from another institution, if applied toward one year of resident study. Please visit the [Graduate On-leave Policy](#) for more information.

If the Program is satisfied that the student is making good progress towards their degree and supports extending a student’s 10-year limit, then a petition can be processed by the Department. Any extension requires approval by the student’s Research Advisor, Ph.D. Graduate Program Coordinator, and Department Chair. Such approvals must be forwarded to the Graduate Program Advisor at statPhDadv@stat.uw.edu. If the student does not finish in the quarter/year their extension was approved, then they must go through the approval and exception processes again.

### 2.6 Timeline and milestones:

The key program milestones follow:

- By the end of the first year: Complete the Statistical Computing and the Measure Theory / Analysis core course requirement; pass the M.S. Theory Exam.
- By the end of the second year: Complete all required courses; pass the Research Prelim Exam and complete all core courses.
- By the end of the third year: Identify a Research Advisor, form your Ph.D. Supervisory Committee, and have it approved by the Graduate School.
- By the end of the fourth year: Complete all elective courses and the consulting requirement. Pass the General Exam and complete your Applied Data Analysis Project.
• By the end of fifth year: Pass your dissertation defense and graduate.

Students who achieve the milestones by the indicated dates will typically be considered to be making satisfactory progress towards their degree (see the “Student progress review” and “Probation” sections below).

The previous timeline for the milestones assumes continuous enrollment as a full-time student in the Ph.D. program. Students enrolled part-time, or who are otherwise on reduced enrollment status will normally take longer than the time estimated above. Similarly, the timeline for students who waive the M.S. Theory Exam would typically be accelerated by one year. Expectations for each individual student are communicated through the annual review process (see “Student Progress Review” Section below).

2.7 Sample plans of study

This is a sample quarter-by-quarter plan of study that has been used in the past by some students. The number in parenthesis corresponds to the number of credits associated with each course:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<td>STAT590 (1)</td>
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<tr>
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Exceptionally well-prepared students entering with a Bachelor’s degree and well-prepared students entering with a Master’s degree can aim to complete each of the stages mentioned above, one year earlier. This is achieved by waiving most or all of the M.S.-level courses normally taken in the first year (see “Requirement waivers” above). This is a sample plan of study that has been used in the past by some of these students:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Autumn</th>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dissertation Defense</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional sample plans for various tracks are available in Appendix A.

2.8 Obtaining an M.S. degree en route to the Ph.D. degree
While pursuing a Ph.D. in Statistics, a student has the option to earn a Master of Science (Statistics) degree through the Concurrent/Part-Time track of our M.S. program. Students can use the same courses used to satisfy the Ph.D. program requirements described in this handbook to cover most if not all the graduation requirements of the concurrent M.S. degree. In particular, students can use STAT 599 (Statistical Consulting) instead of STAT/BIOST 579 (Data Analysis and Reporting) to satisfy the Data Analysis requirement of the M.S. program. For more information, please contact statPhDadv@stat.uw.edu.

2.9 Student progress review
The progress of every graduate student in the Ph.D. program is reviewed by the faculty at least once a year, during Winter quarter (typically in February or March). Students are notified at least three weeks in advance of the date of the review and are expected to fill in the Ph.D. self-assessment form and then arrange to meet their Academic Advisor and, if applicable, their Research Advisor, before the faculty review. If a student has formed a Supervisory Committee, they are encouraged to also meet with the Committee to discuss their progress. Please note that faculty are encouraged to contact their advisees before the review, but the department considers it each student’s responsibility to be proactive and contact faculty to arrange for any meetings. Self-assessment forms are not treated as confidential documents. If the student has concerns that they would prefer to keep confidential they are encouraged to discuss them with the Graduate Program Coordinator or, if that is not a viable option, the Department Chair.
During the Winter review, the faculty discuss many different aspects of each student’s overall progress and performance, including performance in coursework, exams, milestones, overall progress through the degree, and performance in RA/TA/GSA-ships, as well as other factors such as the extent to which the student is engaged in the program (e.g., is the student actively seeking an advisor at the appropriate time?, what is the expected timeline for graduation?).

Students who take the M.S. Theory Exam or the Research Prelim Exam are also reviewed during separate meetings where the results of these Exams are discussed. These typically happen in mid to late June. A second review of post-prelim students happens in early Fall quarter. Students are not required to fill in a self-assessment form before the Autumn review.

Students are notified by the department of the outcome of their reviews in writing at least once a year. At a minimum, the letter will explicitly state whether progress is satisfactory or unsatisfactory, and what milestones the student is expected to achieve before their next review. The letter might also discuss the student’s future funding outlook. General rules for graduate student reviews can be found in the Graduate School’s Memo 16.

2.10 Probation
Students whose progress is unsatisfactory at any point might be put on probation. A student is notified that the department is recommending to the Graduate School that they be put on probation in writing. The letter that informs the student of the probation recommendation will clearly state what actions they need to take to exit probation. As required by the Graduate School, students who are placed in probation can remain in this status for a maximum of three quarters. Failure to exit probation status after three quarters leads to immediate dismissal from the program; placing a student on probation is a necessary step before a student can be dismissed from the program. More information about probation can be found in the Graduate School’s Memo 16.

2.11 Part-time / reduced load students
Graduate students registered for 10 or more credits each quarter are considered full-time students. Virtually all students in the Statistics Ph.D. program are admitted as full-time students and are expected to remain so for the duration of the program. However, in special cases (such as when the student accepts a full-time job opportunity before completing the degree and becomes self-supported) a student that begins as a full-time student might become part-time. Similarly, in exceptional circumstances, the Department may admit students who wish to pursue their Ph.D. part-time.

Students interested in part-time status should be cognizant that completion of all work for the doctoral degree is still required within ten years. This includes quarters spent on-leave or out of status, irrespective of full-time or part-time status. Hence, when the part-time/reduced enrollment is first approved, a student is required to establish a timeline/plan in writing that needs to be approved by the Ph.D. Graduate Program Coordinator. Please note that international students on F-1 and J-1 visas are also typically required to enroll full-time in order to retain their immigration status. Furthermore, a general requirement for all graduate students holding Academic Student Employee appointments, fellowships or traineeships during Autumn, Winter or Spring quarter is that they register in at least 10 credits applicable to the degree. During summer quarter, the requirement is two credits. A student that
does not meet the minimum number of credits but would like to accept an Academic Student Employment offer can request that this requirement be waived. For more details, please see the information in the Graduate School website.

2.12 Academic Grievances
Graduate students who believe they have been subjected to unfair treatment in the administration of academic policies may seek resolution of their complaints under the Academic Grievance Procedure described in the Graduate School Memorandum No. 33. The procedure applies to, but is not limited to, the application of departmental, college or Graduate School policies, deviations from stated grading practices (but not individual grade challenges), unfair treatment, and related issues.

2.13 Important dates
The Graduate School hosts a calendar of important dates that graduate students should keep in mind. We recommend that students subscribe to the calendar following the instructions on the page to make sure that they have access to the most up-to-date information.
3. Professional development opportunities

Every autumn quarter, the Department of Statistics offers a one-credit seminar under the STAT 590 umbrella for incoming Ph.D. covering various topics related to graduate education in our department. New students are strongly encouraged to register for this course.

The Graduate School provides core programming and online tools useful to all graduate students. Previous events organized as part of this core programming have focused on topics as varied as how to translate research into career opportunities, communication skills for international graduate students, navigating the job search when you are LGBTQ and public speaking and presentation skills. Their bi-weekly newsletter is also a great source of advice and information. We recommend looking into their archive, where you might find articles relevant to your own situation.

In addition to this general programming, the department and the campus offer numerous resources in various specialized areas.

3.1 Teaching and mentoring

All students in the Statistics Ph.D. program are required to serve as Teaching Assistants for at least one quarter while pursuing their degrees. This requirement is meant to provide students with a minimum level of teaching experience. In addition, the department offers students who are interested in gaining more teaching experience the opportunity to serve as pre-doctoral instructors during the summer, and occasionally during the academic year. Pre-doctoral Instructors serve as the instructors of record for the course they teach and are fully responsible for all aspects of it. All Pre-doctoral Instructors are assigned a faculty member in the department as a teaching mentor that can support them with both technical and pedagogical issues that might arise.

Graduate students in the department also run two programs that might be of interest to those interested in teaching statistics. The first one is the Statistics Education Reading Group, which explores topics in statistics education, primarily at the undergraduate level. The second one is the Directed Reading Program, which provides Ph.D. students with an opportunity to develop mentoring skills.

The Graduate School sponsors several courses related to teaching and learning in universities settings. For more details, see the Graduate School’s page in the university catalog. In addition, the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) provides support for graduate students serving as Teaching Assistants or Pre-doctoral Instructors (see the “Orientation” section in the “Getting started” chapter).

3.2 Writing support

Among other services, the Odegaard Writing and Research Center (OWRC) provides assistance with building and structuring a paper, developing a thesis, and proofreading. You can book an appointment with a writing consultant here. The OWRC also provides access to various writing resources that you might find useful, and helps organize open writing circles. This blog post from the Graduate School also contains some useful ideas and additional resources.
3.3 Jobs & Internships

The Career & Internship Center provides several resources (these are mostly focused on academic careers):

- First Year as a Professor - https://uw.uconnectlabs.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2016/06/First-Year-as-Professor.pdf

The department hosts a well-known jobs webpage where academic and non-academic employment opportunities are regularly posted. Additional employment and internship opportunities are advertised through the mailing list statjobs@uw.edu. To subscribe to this mailing list, go to https://groups.uw.edu/group/uw_stat_roles_statjobs_selfsubscribe and click on the “Join this group” link.

3.4 Finding external funding

The department encourages and supports graduate students applying for national fellowships. In particular, each summer the department organizes eligible students who are interested in applying for fellowship such as the NSF’s Graduate Research Fellowships Program (GRFP) and/or DOD’s National
Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowship to prepare competitive applications. If you are eligible, you should receive an email from the department with detailed information around early to mid-August.

The graduate school provides information on various fellowships that students can apply for. In addition, Appendix B contains a crowdsourced list of fellowships and other funding opportunities. Feel free to suggest additional entries that we might have missed!

### 3.5 Conference travel support

The Graduate School can provide partial travel support to students who are presenting their research at a scientific conference. You can find more information about the Graduate School’s travel support policies [here](#). For students who have passed their General Exam, the Department provides a supplement to these Graduate School Travel Awards of up to $1,000. One of these supplements is available each fiscal year (July 1 to June 30), and they are available only during the two years following the completion of their General Exam. [Click here for additional details on this program and to submit an application](#).

In addition to supplementing Graduate School Travel Awards, the department provides each year a small number of stand-alone travel awards to students who are interested in participating in conferences centered on issues of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). Examples of such conferences include (but are not limited to) the [SACNAS National Diversity in STEM Conference](#), the [Women in Statistics and Data Science Conference](#), the [Grace Hopper Celebration](#), and the [Tapia Celebration](#). These DEI-focused travel awards are competitive, with requests reviewed and approved twice a year. [Click here for additional details on this program and to submit an application](#).

CSSS offers a limited number of grants for graduate and undergraduate students and postdoctoral researchers working with CSSS faculty affiliates to cover expenses associated with presenting research at conferences and attending workshops or courses. For more information about CSSS travel awards [please visit their website](#).

Professional organizations such as the American Statistical Association, the Institute for Mathematical Statistics and the International Society for Bayesian Analysis provide partial funding to students and junior researchers who will be presenting their work at conferences they sponsor. In many cases, this kind of travel support is provided through participation in student paper competitions. Appendix B contains a crowdsourced list of fellowships and other funding opportunities. Feel free to suggest additional entries that we might have missed!

### 3.6 Departmental Student Awards

Each Autumn quarter, the department issues two awards to Ph.D. students:

- Teaching assistants enrich our classrooms through meaningful and important contributions to the curriculum and student engagement. The Dorothy M. Gilford teaching award, instituted in 1992 in honor of the first Statistics Master’s student, recognizes outstanding performance by a graduate Teaching Assistant during the past year. Only current Statistics Ph.D. students who have served as Teaching Assistants for a class with a STAT code during the previous academic
year (most recent Autumn, Winter, Spring and Summer quarters) are eligible for this award. To be considered for the award, eligible students must be nominated by a faculty member (typically, but not necessarily, the instructor of one of the classes in which the student served as Teaching Assistant). Nominations should exemplify (a) the effectiveness of the TA as an instructor and mentor to students, (b) the effectiveness of the TA at engaging students, closing gaps between teaching and learning and supporting student success, and/or (c) innovation in course and curriculum design.

- The Z.W. Birnbaum Award, instituted in 1986 in honor of our distinguished emeritus professor, recognizes a PhD student for demonstrating outstanding promise in theoretical, methodological, or applied research on the occasion of their General Examination. Only Statistics Ph.D. students who have passed their General Exam during the previous academic year (most recent Autumn, Winter, Spring and Summer quarters) are eligible for this award. Unlike the Dorothy M. Gilford award, eligible students may either be nominated by a faculty member (typically, the research advisor) or they may self-nominate. Faculty nominations address the student’s performance at the general exam and overall research promise. The student self-nomination is a one-page research summary describing (a) their work up to the general exam and (b) work to be completed for the dissertation. A call for self-nominations is usually circulated among Ph.D. students in early Autumn quarter.

For more information about these awards, please visit the department website.

3.7 Leadership opportunities

The Department offers several opportunities for graduate students interested in developing their leadership skills that are also financially compensated.

One example is the role of Graduate Student Representative (see “Graduate Student Representatives” section in the “Getting started” Chapter). Another example is the role of Lead Tutor in the Statistics Tutor & Study Center. The Statistics Tutor and Study Center is dedicated to furthering undergraduate statistical education at UW. Free drop-in tutoring is offered for all students enrolled in UW introductory statistics courses, and many instructors and TAs hold office hours in the Center as well. The Lead Tutor works with the Center’s Faculty Director to coordinate the work of the tutors employed by the Center in order to ensure adequate staffing of the center.

More broadly, graduate students in the department have the opportunity to serve in various campus-wide roles. One option is as senators in the Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS), which holds monthly meetings. The senators get to participate in interesting discussions about various issues relating to all aspects of graduate students’ life at UW. Another option is to serve as Student Regent.

3.8 Diversity, equity and inclusion

The Department has a very active Diversity, Inclusion, Community and Equity that includes both faculty and students. The committee meets regularly and any graduate student in the department can join. To find more about DEI activities and initiatives in the department, please see our website.

In addition to our departmental activities, the Graduate School offers a one-credit seminar (GRDSCH 640 - Seminar on Topics of Diversity and Justice) that helps participants gain a critical understanding of
privilege based on intersecting identities and its use. You can find more about GRDSCH 640 on the Graduate School’s page in the university catalog.

3.9 Entrepreneurship

The UW was recently ranked 7 for graduate entrepreneurship in 2021 Princeton Review rankings. Accordingly, the university offers several resources for students interested in entrepreneurship.

- Entrepreneurship Certificate in the Foster School of Business
- Certificate in women’s entrepreneurial leadership.
- Buerk Center for entrepreneurship.
- Innovation classes and clubs.
4 Advising and mentorship

Please contact the Graduate Program Advisor at statPhAdv@stat.uw.edu, if you have any questions regarding registration, academic progress, degree audits, TA/RA assignments, CPT & OPT applications, formation of graduate student committee, coordination of general exam and final exam, registering for Consulting (STAT 599), and signing up for the M.S. Theory exam.

In addition to the Graduate Program Advisor, Ph.D. students receive advising and mentoring from other members of the faculty acting in different roles. Those roles are described in the following sections. In addition, we recommend that you read the Guidelines for Good Practice in Graduate Education put forward by the Graduate School.

4.1 Faculty Academic Advisor

Each graduate student is assigned a member of the department’s faculty as an Academic Advisor during the summer prior to the start of entering the PhD program. The Faculty Academic Advisor is assigned by the Graduate Program Coordinator in collaboration with the Graduate Program Advisor. The Faculty Academic Advisor cannot also be the Research Advisor of the student. If the student decides that they would like to have their current Faculty Academic Advisor as their Research Advisor, then the Graduate Program Coordinator will assign them a different Academic Advisor. Students can also request to be moved to a different Faculty Academic Advisor. Students are not required to provide a reason for the move.

Your Faculty Academic Advisor is expected to provide guidance throughout the student’s academic career. They are also one of the first points of contact for conflict resolution (see “Conflict Resolution” Section below). Students should plan to meet with their Faculty Academic Advisor at least once a year prior to the annual student progress review, or ideally once per quarter. Topics for discussion with the Faculty Academic Advisor may include:

- How are things going?
  - How is balancing coursework, teaching, and research going?
  - How is the work-life balance?
  - Are you connecting with others in the department (students & faculty)?
- Career Planning
  - What have you been up to since the last check in (courses/research)? Is this consistent with or different than your goals and priorities?
  - Are you considering opportunities outside of the degree requirements that might help in your career goals (e.g., internships, classes outside the department, teaching your own class, etc.)
  - Have you been able to find mentors that can support you in your goals?
  - You might also discuss the creation of an individual development plan (IDP)
- Are you making progress on all academic coursework and other department requirements?
  - Do you have a (rough) plan for each academic quarter’ classes?
  - How are classes going? Are you struggling in any classes, and, if so, do you have a plan to improve?
○ Are you considering following any of the optional Ph.D. tracks? (Social Science, StatGen, MLBD, ADS).
○ Are you making appropriate progress towards program milestones (M.S. Theory Exam, Research Prelim Exam, Consulting, Applied Data Analysis Project, etc.)

- Have you found a research advisor?
  ○ Have you created a list of potential advisors and met with them?
  ○ If you have a research advisor, then how is your working relationship?

- How is research going?
  ○ Have you decided on a thesis topic?
  ○ Do you and your advisor have a plan of what papers you are going to write and when and where you plan to submit them?
  ○ Do you and your advisor have a timeline or plan for your general exam and final exam?
  ○ Have you found appropriate committee members?

- Other
  ○ Is there anything else the department should be aware of when they are conducting student progress reviews?
  ○ Is there anything else you would like to discuss?

4.2 Research Advisors

The Research Advisor is the person that assumes the principal responsibility for advising the student through their Ph.D. dissertation and, more generally, for helping them prepare for a career after the completion of the Ph.D. It is possible to have two research advisors, a situation that happens most commonly when one of them is not a statistics faculty member. Typically, the Research Advisor is the Chair of your Ph.D. Supervisory Committee (see “Supervisory committee” section below). The Research Advisor should help the student identify potential/appropriate additional Supervisory Committee members.

While the Department encourages students to interact with faculty from day one and get involved in research early in their Ph.D. program, the Statistics Department does not admit students to any particular faculty lab. Therefore, students are not assigned a Research Advisor at the time they join the program. Instead, most students identify their research advisor sometime during their second or third year in the program.

The burden of identifying a Research Advisor falls on the student. The process usually involves the student reaching out to individual faculty members and requesting a meeting to discuss opportunities for research in the faculty member’s group. Before contacting faculty, however, there are a few questions that the student should consider:

- Have you decided on a thesis topic?
- If not, are there areas that you are clearly not interested in?
- What is the balance between theory, computation and applications that best fits your interests and abilities?
- Which papers in which the faculty member is involved have you read?
If the faculty expresses interest, a student might then spend one or more quarters working on a specific project (usually enrolling in STAT 600) before a formal assignment as Research Advisor is made.

**Switching is ok!** It is not uncommon for students to do rotations with more than one faculty member during their second and third years in the program before a Research Advisor match is formally made.

You should be meeting with your Research Advisor on a regular basis (e.g., once per week) to discuss progress through your dissertation. In addition, you should plan to meet with your Research Advisor and (if applicable) with your Ph.D. Supervisory Committee at least once a year prior to the annual student progress review specifically to discuss your progress through the program and research-specific milestones such as the General Exam and the Final Exam.

Identifying a Research Advisor is one of the most important decisions that you can make during your Ph.D. career. This guide from Columbia University gives some further helpful advice in this regard. Useful suggestions on how to work with your Research Advisor are available here. Advice on how to address potential conflicts with your advisors is available here.

### 4.3 Supervisory committee

The Supervisory Committee oversees the student’s academic work throughout the program. It guides and assists each student in working toward their doctoral degree. The Supervisory Committee must have at least four members. You can find detailed information about the Roles and Responsibilities of the Ph.D. Supervisory Committee here, and about the Graduate School requirements for the Supervisory Committee here.

Every Supervisory Committee has a Chair or, potentially, co-Chairs. The Chair or one of the co-Chair of the committee is typically the Research Advisor. The following individuals are eligible to serve as sole Chair for a Supervisory Committee:

(A) members of the professorial track (tenure-track/tenured, WOT, research or teaching professor) in the Statistics department, including emeritus faculty members formerly associated with this track

(B) members of the professorial track (tenure-track/tenured, WOT, research or teaching professor) in the Biostatistics department

(C) members of the adjunct or affiliate faculty in the Statistics department

An individual who does not belong to one of categories (A), (B), or (C) is not eligible to serve as sole Chair. Also, please note that, in accordance with Graduate School Memo 12 and Memo 13, any Supervisory Committee Chair must be a member of the Graduate Faculty and hold an endorsement to serve as Chair.

If a student is interested in pursuing dissertation research with a member of the Graduate Faculty at UW who has an endorsement to serve as Chair but does not belong to one of categories (A), (B), or (C) above, then there are two options:

(1) The student can notify the Graduate Program Coordinator about the situation. The Statistics faculty will then discuss the possibility of extending an adjunct/affiliate appointment to the faculty member in question.
(2) The non-eligible faculty member can serve as co-Chair, together with an individual who is eligible to serve as sole Chair.

If a student intends to pursue either Option (1) or (2), then they should start this process as early as possible, to maximize the chance of success and to avoid undue delays in forming a committee and meeting other degree milestones.

Please note that all Supervisory Committee Chairs will be expected to participate in the Department’s Winter student review meeting, even if they do not normally participate in other Statistics faculty meetings. Chairs may also be requested to participate in the post-prelim student review during the Fall. Students are expected to make their potential advisors aware of these requirements early on.

In addition to the requirements laid out above for Supervisory Committee Chairs, every Supervisory Committee should contain at least one member that meets the criteria listed in (A) above, and one other member that meets the criteria listed in (A) or (B). One of these two members can be the committee Chair.

One of the members of the committee serves as the graduate school representative (GSR). The GSR represents the broad interests of the Graduate School with respect to high standards of scholarly performance. Note that the GSR must be free of any conflict of interest (e.g., budgetary relationships, personal relationships, or research and/or publication relationships) with the student or the Committee Chair. See the [GSR Eligibility Chart](#) for additional details.

The Supervisory Committee must be approved by the Graduate School. To start the process of establishing your Ph.D. Supervisory Committee, please fill in the [Supervisory Committee form online](#). The department will then process your request and notify the Graduate School. This should generate a confirmatory appointment email. If after a week the student has not received a confirmation email from the Graduate School listing the committee members, they should notify [statPhDadv@stat.uw.edu](mailto:statPhDadv@stat.uw.edu). After the confirmation email from the Graduate School listing your committee members is received, it is the student’s responsibility to contact all Committee members regarding General and Final Examination dates and availability. The process of establishing the supervisory committee might take up to 2 weeks to complete.

The department strongly encourages its students to establish the committee within a year of completing their Ph.D. Prelim Examination (see “Timeline and Milestones” section above). In any case, the Supervisory Committee needs to be approved before the General Exam can be scheduled.

Once a Supervisory Committee is formed, it is recommended that students meet with the members of their committee at least once a year to update them on their progress and discuss future steps. An ideal time for such meeting(s) is in early Winter quarter, in anticipation of the Winter student progress review (please see “Student progress review” section under “Program Information”).

To change a Supervisory Committee Chair or Member, please resubmit a new [Supervisory Committee form online](#).
4.4 Reading committee

The Reading Committee is comprised of a minimum of three members of the Supervisory Committee, at least one of whom must hold an endorsement to chair doctoral committees. The mandate of the Reading Committee is to ensure that the student’s dissertation is a significant contribution to statistical knowledge and is an acceptable piece of scholarly writing. Graduate School policies on Reading Committees can be found here. Please note that at least one member of the Reading Committee must be in a professorial track (tenure-track/tenured, WOT, research or teaching professor) in the Statistics department, or an emeritus faculty formerly associated with such a track.

Students should establish their Reading Committee at least 8 weeks before the desired date of the Dissertation Defense. After discussing with the Committee Chair and the rest of the Supervisory Committee and obtained agreement from those who will serve on the Reading Committee, the student must fill in the Reading Committee form online. If, after one week, the student has not received a confirmation email from the Graduate School listing their Reading Committee members, they should notify statPhDadv@stat.uw.edu. Students will need the confirmation email from the Graduate School before scheduling their Final Exam.

4.5 Mentors

Having a support system is vital to your success in graduate school. A key component of such a support system is a network of mentors. Conceived broadly, a mentoring relationship is a close, individualized relationship that develops over time between a graduate student and a faculty member that includes both caring and guidance. Although there is a connection between mentors and advisors, not all mentors are advisors, and not all advisors are mentors. Indeed, it is important to note that mentoring involves a constellation of activities that goes beyond advising or guiding a student through a project. Instead, it involves a variety of ways of assisting and supporting graduate students through their graduate careers and beyond.

The department encourages the development of mentoring relationships between faculty and students beyond those that develop naturally because of the Academic or Research Mentoring relationships. Mentors can provide ongoing support in several ways:

- Engage graduate students in ongoing conversations
- Demystify graduate school
- Provide constructive support and feedback
- Provide encouragement and support
- Help foster networks
- Look out for the student’s interests
- Treat students with respect
- Provide a personal touch

This blog post from the Graduate School provides some excellent advice on mentorship from the point of view of a graduate student.
4.6 Graduate student representatives
Graduate Student Representatives can provide informal advice, help guide students through departmental processes and suggest resources. They can also facilitate communication between students and faculty, especially when similar concerns are shared by multiple students and/or when a student wants to remain anonymous. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your Graduate student representatives!

4.7 Peer mentoring
The Graduate Student Representatives run a volunteer-based peer-mentoring program within the department. Each incoming PhD student is paired with a more senior student who serves as their mentor. Peer mentors meet with their mentees during Orientation and are encouraged to reach out and talk with their peer mentees a few times during their first year can be an additional resource to answer questions about a variety of different concerns during a new student’s first year.
5 Misconduct and Title IX

At the University of Washington, graduate students are expected to uphold high standards academically and professionally. The Department expects graduate students to interact respectfully, morally, and professionally. Students may be disciplined or dismissed from the graduate program for misconduct (academic, non-academic, or research). Students are responsible for reading the information below and the information published on the respective websites.

5.1 Academic and non-academic misconduct

The University of Washington Student Conduct Code, which covers both acts of academic and non-academic misconduct, is detailed and explained by one Washington state code law and two Student Governance and Policy documents:

- **WAC 478-121** – The Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Chapter detailing the Student Conduct Code for the University of Washington.
- **Chapter 209** – Student conduct policy for academic misconduct and behavioral misconduct.
- **Chapter 210** – Student conduct policy for discriminatory and sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, sexual misconduct, stalking and retaliation.

Academic misconduct includes conduct such as cheating, falsification, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, submitting the same work for separate courses without the permission of the instructor(s), taking deliberate action to destroy or damage another person’s academic work and recording and/or disseminating instructional content without the permission of the instructor (unless approved as a disability accommodation) More information about academic misconduct at UW, including information about the student conduct process, can be found here.

Non-academic (behavioral) misconduct may be broadly defined as any behavior that adversely affects the learning of others or the college’s educational mission, violates civil or criminal statutes, or threatens the safety or well-being of members of the UW community. This may include things like hate or bias, sexual violence, hazing or other issues that may work against the university’s living and learning environment that is safe and free from violence, harassment, fraud, theft, disruption, and intimidation. Note that nonacademic misconduct can occur inside and outside the classroom. More information about non-academic misconduct can be found here.

5.2 Title IX

Title IX, Title VII, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), Washington State law, and University of Washington policy collectively prohibit discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender expression, pregnant or parenting status, and LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) identity. The Title IX Office works to uphold these regulations.

Formal complaints about employees can be submitted to the University Complaint Investigation Resolution Office (UCIRO). Formal complaints about students can be submitted to the Title IX Investigation Office. Not all misconduct cases fall within the scope of the Title IX Office. Confidential advocates can explain and answer questions about this process; they can be contacted by emailing lwadvoc@uw.edu. Visit the Title IX Reporting Options page for more information.
Formal complaints must be submitted in writing by the person who experienced the conduct or by the Title IX Coordinator. The staff in the Office of the Title IX Coordinator can answer questions or address concerns about formal complaints or any other issue related to sex or gender discrimination.

If you are an Academic Student Employee (e.g., TA, RA or GSA), you may utilize the union’s independent reporting system. For more information, contact your union representative or the union directly, UAW Local 4121, Phone: (206) 633-6080, Email: uaw4121@uaw4121.org.

The University provides several resources to support victims of sexual assault or harassment. For more information, please see the “Health and Safety” section below.

5.3 Workplace violence
The University of Washington is committed to providing a safe workplace. The University does not tolerate behavior, whether direct or through the use of University facilities, property or resources that is violent, threatens to harm, harasses or intimidates others, interferes with an individual’s legal rights of movement or expression, disrupts the workplace, the academic environment or the University’s ability to provide services to the public. Violent or threatening behavior can include physical acts, oral or written statements, email messages, telephone calls, gestures and expressions. Find more about workplace violence prevention and reporting here.

If you are an Academic Student Employee (e.g., TA, RA or GSA), you may utilize the union’s independent reporting system. For more information, contact your union representative or the union directly, UAW Local 4121, Phone: (206) 633-6080, Email: uaw4121@uaw4121.org.

5.4 Research Misconduct
The University of Washington is committed to responsible conduct of research. Research misconduct is defined to be fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results. The Office of Research Misconduct Proceedings (ORMP) coordinates the University’s handling of allegations of research misconduct against members of the University community, in consultation and cooperation with the University’s schools, colleges, and campuses.

Students who are funded by awards from certain agencies such as the National Science Foundation must complete Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training. Please visit the RCR page at the Office of Research website for more details, including information about training options.
6  Health and Safety

The University of Washington and the Statistics Department are committed to maintaining a healthy and safe environment for all their students, faculty and staff. Please review the department’s Health and Safety Plan. Campus information about environmental health and safety can be found here.

6.1 Emergencies

First, and most importantly, if a possible emergency arises, immediately dial 9-1-1. Immediately ask to be transferred to the University of Washington Police Department. UWPD is the first responder to the emergency in most cases.

If you are unsure of whether the situation requires emergency personnel, call 9-1-1 in case! Calling when it might not have been necessary is a better outcome than not calling and wishing you had!

6.2 Health insurance

Certain categories of Academic Student Employees (ASEs) receive health insurance through the Graduate Appointee Insurance Program (GAIP). This covers medical, vision, and dental care for teaching assistants, research assistants, predoctoral researchers, and other ASEs working across the University. Please refer here for eligibility and coverage details. Graduate students who hold a UW-paid GAIP-eligible position in all three quarters of the academic year (Autumn, Winter and Spring) receive GAIP coverage in summer quarter no matter their employment or enrollment status. This means that someone who graduated in spring gets GAIP in summer as does a continuing student who has some other kind of (non-GAIP eligible) funding in summer as just two examples. For GAIP coverage begin and end dates see here. Please contact Benefits – (206) 543-4444 or uwgaip@uw.edu, if you have questions about GAIP coverage.

International students are required by federal and state laws to maintain health insurance while studying in the United States. International students at UW are automatically enrolled in the UW International Student Health Insurance Plan (ISHIP) when registering for classes. Dual coverage under the ISHIP and GAIP are not allowed. If you are enrolled in ISHIP and GAIP, your ISHIP coverage will be waived, and you will be covered by GAIP.

UW does not offer health insurance to domestic students who are not ASEs. Domestic students are defined as US citizens, green card holders, DACA recipients and undocumented students. Domestic students are not required to have health insurance by the university.

6.3 Mental Health resources

Please call 911 if you are experiencing a life-threatening emergency. If you are in crisis, or know someone in crisis you can call:

- The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or Text HOME to 741741 for free.
- The Washington Warm Line at 877-500-9276
- The 24-hour Crisis Clinic at 866-427-4747.
If you need someone to talk with but are not in crisis, call the **UW Counseling Center** at **206-543-1240** during their office hours:

- Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Additionally, UW has consolidated all [mental health resources available to students](mailto:206-543-1240) on a single, easy-to-navigate webpage.

### 6.4 Vaccinations

All first-time, matriculated students must provide proof of immunity to certain diseases. Hall Health Center administers the UW Immunization Requirement program. Visit the [UW Immunization Requirement website](mailto:UW Immunization Requirement website) for instructions on how to submit the required UW form and any additional documentation.

### 6.5 Disability Information

The University of Washington strives to create a community of access and inclusion on campus. The [Disability Resources for Students (DRS)](mailto:Disability Resources for Students (DRS)) is the main campus unit dedicated to this purpose. Some of its core functions include:

- Partner with students with disabilities to establish services for their access and inclusion on campus
- Manage, coordinate, implement and evaluate accommodation/service programs
- Serve as a resource to students/faculty/staff to ensure effective provision of services
- Provide educational and resource support to the campus community to increase awareness regarding how to create and sustain access and inclusion for students with disabilities in all aspects of the university
- Provide resource and referral information to the campus community and prospective students and their families

Use [this link](mailto:this link) to request an accommodation through DRS.

### 6.6 Conflict resolution

Interpersonal conflicts, be them with another student or a member of the faculty or staff, can be stressful and overwhelming. Many of the policies described in this Handbook are intended to minimize potential sources of conflict. However, conflict can never be fully prevented.

The most important tool in conflict resolution is open communication. When a conflict arises that is not addressed by an existing policy, individuals involved should first attempt to work out the issue. This is not always easy; the two references below provide useful advice on how to approach this process:

- This [article from Inside Higher Ed](mailto:article from Inside Higher Ed) discusses useful strategies to manage conflicts and disputes.
- The [Graduate School blog](mailto:Graduate School blog) has several very useful articles focus
When attempting to work out issues directly, we recommend that each party should document when meeting(s) occur and briefly summarize how attempt(s) to create a mutually satisfactory resolution were approached.

If the parties cannot reach a mutually satisfactory resolution, you should escalate the situation to your Academic Advisor and/or to the Graduate Program Coordinator. If you do not feel comfortable discussing the situation with either of them, you should reach out to the Statistics Department Chair. If you have exhausted all internal avenues for resolution, another option is to contact the Office of the Ombud.

6.7 Other useful resources

6.7.1 Safecampus
Safecampus helps faculty, staff and students prevent violence and be prepared to respond when it occurs. SafeCampus can be contacted to anonymously discuss safety and well-being concerns for yourself or others. SafeCampus listens to your concerns and provides individualized care, support and safety plans tailored to your situation. Caring, trained professionals will talk you through your options and connect you with additional resources when requested. Responses are adapted to the needs of the individuals involved in any situation. SafeCampus considers how a person’s self-identified culture, sexual orientation, gender, race, immigration status or ability may impact their experience with violence or threats of violence.

6.7.2 Sexual Assault Resources Page
The Sexual Assault Resources Page page provides victims of sexual violence with an array of resources that reflect the University’s commitment to preventing and responding to sexual misconduct, including sexual assault, relationship violence, domestic violence, stalking, and sexual harassment.

6.7.3 LiveWell
LiveWell provides survivor support and advocacy to those who have experienced Sexual Assault, Relationship Violence, Stalking, or Sexual Harassment. In addition to survivor support and advocacy, LiveWell provides alcohol and other drugs education, peer health educators (for undergraduate and graduate students), student coaching and care, and a suicide intervention program.

6.7.4 GreenDot Bystander Intervention Training
Green Dot is a movement, a program, and an action. The aim of Green Dot is to prevent and reduce sexual assault & relationship violence at UW by engaging students as leaders and active bystanders who step in, speak up, and interrupt potential acts of violence. The Green Dot movement is about gaining a critical mass of students, staff and faculty who are willing to do their small part to actively and visibly reduce power-based personal violence at UW. No one has to do everything, but everyone has to do something. Green Dot is your individual choice to do something.

6.7.5 UW Bias Reporting Toolhttps://www.washington.edu/bias/
If you encounter or suspect incidents of bias, you are encouraged to file a report, which will be reviewed by the UW’s Bias Incident Advisory Committee. Whenever possible, bias reports will be reviewed within two to four business days. Anonymous reports also may be submitted. Individuals who submit a report
and identify themselves may be contacted for more detail and to provide options for combating the bias. Potential outcomes include receiving support and information about available resources, coordinating support for community healing and educational outreach, assessing avenues for minimizing or eliminating future incidents of bias, and/or cataloging the incident.

6.7.6  UWPD’s Husky NightWalk
Husky NightWalk provides uniformed safety guards to walk with you to increase your personal safety on and around campus. The service is available to the University community 6:30 p.m. – 2 a.m. seven days a week (7:30 p.m. to 3 a.m. during the summer), excluding official University Holidays. Please contact the UW Police Department’s Husky NightWalk Service at 206-685-9255 for more information, or to schedule an escort.

6.7.7  NightRide
NightRide is a shuttle service that runs between 8:00 pm and 1:39 am, Mondays through Fridays. It picks riders up at seven stops around campus and will drop you off anywhere within the east and west zones.
7 Financial information

The department is committed to ensuring that students are financially supported during their Ph.D. studies. Financial need, or lack thereof, plays no role in admission decisions to our Ph.D. program.

Most of the students in the Statistics Ph.D. program are admitted with funding. The Financial Offer letter that you received along with your Acceptance Letter provides detailed information as it applies to you. While the fine print might vary depending on the year was admitted, among other factors, in practice, this means that the department will provide academic-year funding at least the first 15 consecutive quarters of a student’s Ph.D. career (the normative time-to-degree), as well as for at least three summer quarters that fall within those first 15 consecutive quarters. Historically, the department has been able to fully support its funded students through their graduation even if they take longer than the normative time. However, such commitments are subject to funding availability and should not be assumed. Note that financial support is contingent upon students making satisfactory progress through their degree and on satisfactory performance in any employment relationship.

In rare circumstances, Ph.D. students might be admitted without funding. This is typically done only when the student can demonstrate that they will be able to support themselves through the program (e.g., through an external fellowship or through a funding commitment from an employer). While the department will work with unfunded students to ensure that they can complete the program if their financial situation changes. However, funding requests from Ph.D. students that were admitted without a funding commitment receive the lowest possible priority among all Ph.D. students.

7.1 Academic student employment

Most departmental support for graduate students is provided through Academic Student Employee (ASE) positions. These include Teaching Assistantships, Research Assistantships and Predoctoral Instructor (which are typically “Salaried ASE” positions, except possibly over summer), as well as Tutor, Reader and Grader positions (which are typically “Hourly ASE”). Academic student employees are unionized under UAW Local 4121, Phone: (206) 633-6080, Email: uaw4121@uaw4121.org. The ASE contract is available here. Please note that these rates apply even if you are hired as an ASE by a different department at UW.

Salaried ASE positions are the primary form of support for Ph.D. students. These positions are typically eligible for a waiver of tuition and some other mandatory fees. You can find more information on tuition and waivers for ASE positions on the Student Fiscal Services and the Office of Planning and Budget websites. Students in salaried ASE positions also receive a monthly stipend that might depend on your progress through the Ph.D. program. You can see the current stipend rates in Statistics here.

In addition to a salaried ASE position, Ph.D. students sometimes might also hold hourly ASE positions as tutors, readers or graders. These positions provide additional compensation based on the number of hours worked but are typically not eligible for tuition and fee waivers. Students interested in this type of position need to apply to them every quarter using the Tutor and Grader application forms (please note that these are different). Please note that, under most circumstances, Ph.D. students who have not passed their Prelim Exam and completed the course requirements are discouraged from holding hourly ASE positions in addition to salaried ones. Furthermore, international students at any stage of
their Ph.D. who already hold a 50% salaried ASE might need to obtain special authorization (either Curricular Practical Training for F1 visa holders, or Academic Training for J1 visa holders). See section “Academic Training” and “Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and Optional Practical Training (OPT)” sections under “International Students”. Students who hold an hourly ASE position need to fill in timesheets on a weekly basis through Workday.

During summer quarter only, graduate students might be hired as Research Assistants on an hourly basis. If you are employed as an Hourly Graduate Research Student Assistant during Summer quarter, you are required to submit timesheets on Workday in order to be paid. For detailed instructions on how to submit timesheets on Workday, please refer to the following ISC guides:

- [https://isc.uw.edu/user-guides/enter_time/](https://isc.uw.edu/user-guides/enter_time/)

Please submit your timesheets by the 15th and 30th/31st of each month. After you submit this on Workday, it will be sent to your supervisor for their review and approval. Once your timesheets have been approved, you will be paid for this time on the next paycheck. If timesheets are not submitted in time, you can still enter your time retroactively. This should be done as a last resort so please be sure to submit your timesheets on time.

Students who hold ASE appointments in fall, winter, and spring quarters (all three quarters) will automatically receive summer quarter health insurance coverage even if their only ASE appointment during the summer is an hourly RA position.

Satisfactory performance in ASE positions is a requirement for continuing funding. A student with an unsatisfactory evaluation in two or more quarters (not necessarily continuous) may lose departmental financial support.

7.1.1 Research assistantships and dissertation research
Sometimes the work performed under a Research Assistantship might be an integral part of the student dissertation. When that is the case, Research Assistant positions can allow a student to make quick progress towards their degree. However, there is no requirement that a Research Assistantship be related in any way to your dissertation, especially when you are being employed by a different department. Before accepting a Research Assistant offer, please make sure that you discuss the relationship between your dissertation work and the research you will be performing with your Research Advisor and with your employer (if different from your Research Advisor).

7.2 External fellowships
Several of our students are supported on external fellowships each year, and the department actively encourages and provides advice and support for these applications. Please see the “Finding external funding” section in the “Professional development” chapter.

The exact level of support provided by external fellowships can vary widely, making strict rules about combining funding sources difficult to create. In considering how much departmental support (e.g., ASE appointments, additional fellowships, etc.) to provide to students who hold major external fellowships, the department balances two principles against each other:
• The department strives to ensure that all students within normative time to degree have a minimum level of financial support, roughly equivalent to a 50% FTE ASE appointment across the year.
• The department also aims to support at this level as many students who are beyond normative time but are deemed to be making good academic process as possible.

With these principles in mind, students who have received a major fellowship that allows them to serve as Teaching Assistants or Predoctoral Instructors might be offered such appointments. However, they receive the lowest priority on such assignments. Students who do not receive additional income from an ASE appointment and whose funding through external fellowships is not deemed by the department to be equivalent to a 50% FTE ASE appointment might receive a supplemental fellowship from the department. Specific arrangements are made on a case-by-case basis.

7.3 Summer internships
Most of our Ph.D. students secure at least one summer internship during their time as doctoral students. Seattle has a dynamic economy, and it is home to several Fortune 500 companies as well as many startups. Additionally, there are plenty of opportunities with various governmental and quasi-governmental organizations such as National Laboratories and, especially, the Pacific Northwest National Lab.

7.4 Getting paid
Please see the “Getting paid” section in the “Getting started” chapter.

7.5 Reimbursements
Sometimes students incur out-of-pocket expenses that the department will reimburse. Depending on the source of funding, students can be reimbursed for things such as conference registrations, conference travel, department hosting expenses, books, equipment, memberships, etc. Please note that alcohol cannot be reimbursed. To request a reimbursement, you must receive prior approval from whoever is funding the reimbursement. Typically, this is the Chair for department funds or a faculty member if requesting from their funds.

If you are submitting a travel reimbursement request, please complete the Travel Reimbursement form. For all other reimbursements, please complete the General Reimbursement form. On these forms, please include all pertinent details for your request. If it is a food-related reimbursement, please also include a list of invitees/attendees.

In addition to filling in the appropriate form, you will typically need to submit receipts in order to get reimbursed. Receipts must be original and itemized, and must show the vendor’s name, date of purchase, description of items and proof of payment.

Once the reimbursement form is submitted, it will be sent to a staff member to process. After the reimbursement is processed by a staff member, you will receive an email from Ariba with the subject line: “ACTION REQUIRED:”. In this email, there will be a box that says “Open.” After clicking this, it will lead you to Ariba, where you can review your reimbursement. Once you are ready to approve it, click on
the green “Approve” button. Reimbursements typically take 3-5 days to process and funds are disbursed through direct deposit.

Please refer to the following resources for reimbursement policies:

- Receipt Policy: https://finance.uw.edu/ps/resources/receiptpolicy
- Travel: https://finance.uw.edu/travel/policies.
8 International students

8.1 Reporting to the International Student Office
The U.S. government requires all F-1 and J-1 students to officially “check in” with their university when they begin a new program of study in the U.S. Check-in at the UW is 100% online. Please complete your online check-in as early as you can after you physically arrive in the U.S. by completing all steps in the “New Student Post-Arrival Checklist.” You must be inside the U.S. to check in.

Incomplete check-ins endanger your status with the U.S. government. ISS will put a hold on your university account if this process is not done correctly.

8.2 Serving as Teaching Assistants
In order to be appointed as Teaching Assistants, graduate students who are not native speakers of English must fulfill the following three requirements:

- Meet the general English language proficiency (ELP) requirement.
- Meet the additional spoken English language proficiency requirement.
- Participate in the International Teaching Assistant Program at the Center for Teaching and Learning.

The department requires all students who do not meet the minimum TOEFL-iBT or IELTS scores to contact statPhDadv@stat.uw.edu and to request a one-time appeal interview from the Graduate School. For more details see here.

8.3 Health insurance requirements
Please see the “Health insurance” section under “Health and Safety”.

8.4 Getting a Social Security Number
Students holding F-1 and J-1 status who are employed in the U.S. must apply for a Social Security number. A Social Security (SSN) is issued to track earnings over a worker’s lifetime. The Social Security number itself is not a work permit.

Social Security Numbers are issued by the Social Security Administration (SSA). You can find your local Social Security Office here. In order to apply for Social Security Number, new students on an F-1 or J-1 visa and on-campus employment (most Ph.D. students in the Statistics program fall in this category) must first complete all steps in the “New Student Post-Arrival Checklist,” and wait 10 business days after arriving in the U.S. To apply, you will need two letters before you visit the Social Security Administration Office:

- A campus employment letter from your UW hiring department. Please contact office@stat.uw.edu to get this letter.
- An SSN support letter from ISS. After you receive your on-campus employment letter, scan or take a photo of the letter. Complete the webform to request a separate ISS support letter for your SSN.
You will typically need to make an appointment to apply in person. Bring the following items with you to your appointment:

- Original on-campus employment letter (see above).
- Scanned SSN Support Letter signed by an ISS DSO (see above).
- Form I-20 (for students on an F-1 visa) or form DS-2019 (for students on a J-1 visa).
- Valid passport (along with old passport it if contains your F-1 or J-1 visa stamp).
- A copy of your F-1 or J-1 admission stamp in your passport.
- Form SS-5.

8.5 Obtaining a US phone number

It may not be absolutely necessary to have a US phone number prior to opening a US bank account, however, it can make the process a bit easier. If you currently have a cell phone, the easiest method is to purchase a US sim card and phone plan. Some options near campus

- T-Mobile (U Village)
- AT & T (U Village)
- Verizon (Wallingford)
- Mint Mobile (Online)

You may need to bring:

- Your passport from your country of origin
- I-94, and I-20
- Your Student ID card (Some providers may offer student discounts)
- Any identification documents issued by your government

8.6 Opening a US bank account

You will want to open a US bank account shortly after you arrive in the US. Typically, a checking account will be the most appropriate choice, but you may also wish to open a savings account. To open an account, you will need to bring:

- Your passport from your country of origin
- I-94, and I-20
- Your Student ID card;
- Any identification documents issued by your government;
- A letter of enrollment (follow the instructions on the attached page); and
- Money or a check to deposit (might be $25-$100, but some are less.)

A social security number is not required for an F-I or J-I student to open a bank account. After you have obtained these documents, you can proceed to a bank of your choice and open a checking account. Some options near campus (U district)

- Wells Fargo
- Bank of America
• Key Bank
• Chase Bank
• BECU (Credit Union)
• WSECU (Credit Union)

Credit Unions typically have lower monthly fees. However, many of the other banks also have 0 fees for people aged 17-24 when they open their account (e.g., Chase).

8.7 Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and Optional Practical Training (OPT)
Curricular Practical Training (CPT) is a temporary authorization for F-1 students to obtain practical training directly related to your major field of study – paid or unpaid. CPT is authorized by the ISS office. “Practical training” can include:

• Employment
• Internship experience (paid or unpaid)
• Cooperative (co-op) education experience
• Practicum participation

CPT authorization can be:

• Part-time (20 hours per week or less)
• Full-time (more than 20 hours per week)
• During the regular academic year (you must also register for full-time credits)
• During your annual vacation quarter

Please note that, if you hold a 20-hour-per-week position as an Academic Student Employee (such as a Teaching of Research Assistantship), you will typically need to apply for CPT before you can be employed in any other position (such as grader/tutor). For more information about eligibility and how to apply, please refer to Curricular Practical Training.

Before you apply for CPT through ISS, please send the following information to statPhDadv@stat.uw.edu:

• Expected graduation quarter/year.
• Course number and number of credits you will earn for CPT.
• Number of credits you will earn per quarter of CPT authorization.
• Which quarters you will register for CPT-related credit.
  (Example: if your proposed employment is from January 20 to April 15, you must earn CPT-related credit in winter and spring quarters.)
  (Vacation quarters: if you will apply for CPT during your annual vacation quarter, it may be possible to defer your CPT credit to the immediately following quarter; consult your department adviser).
• Brief description of proposed work experience and how it relates to your major/field of study
• Name of your employer (Caution! If you are working for a staffing or recruiting agency, such as PRO Unlimited, confirm with them if they must be listed as your employer).
• Employer’s (work site) address: street address, city, state, and zip code.

Allow at least three weeks for processing. This includes time for your department adviser to complete “Adviser Section”, plus 15 business days for ISS processing.

Optional Practical Training (OPT) provides F-1 students with an opportunity for hands-on work experience (work authorization) related to the academic field of study. For eligibility and how to apply, please refer to Optional Practical Training.

There are two types of OPT authorization:

• Pre-Completion OPT: OPT used while you are still enrolled in your course of study, before your program end date, is called “pre-completion” OPT. Pre-completion OPT is deducted from the 12 months of OPT eligibility, and most students prefer to save OPT for after program completion. You may start the OPT application process up to 90 days before your requested employment start date. For more information and instructions, review Pre-Completion OPT: How To Apply.

• Post-Completion OPT: OPT authorization that begins after completion of your academic program is called “post-completion” OPT. This is the most common type of OPT and is full-time. Consult your ISS adviser if you are considering applying for post-completion OPT to overlap with completion of the thesis/dissertation (prior to graduation). For more info and instructions, review Post-Completion OPT: How To Apply.

Applications for OPT are handled directly by ISS. You do not need to contact the Department to request OPT authorization. Also, please note that Statistics is a STEM field. Students in their 12-month OPT authorization period, with a qualifying STEM degree and working for an E-Verify registered employer, may apply for an extension of their OPT.

8.8 Academic Training

Academic Training for J-1 students is training related to your field of study which requires authorization from ISS. This allows them to gain additional training related to their field of study. Training could be in the form of a job, internship, research position, cooperative education position, or other opportunity to obtain experience that furthers your academic objective. Academic Training can be paid or unpaid.

Applications to the Academic Training program are handled by ISS and require pre-authorization in the following cases:

• Off-campus academic training opportunities.
• On-campus opportunities that don’t qualify as on-campus employment.

On- or off-campus academic training opportunities that extend beyond your academic program completion (program completion refers to either graduation for degree-seeking students or end of exchange for visiting students).

The rules are slightly different depending on whether your Academic Training takes place during or after your enrolled studies at UW. To help discuss the different rules, ISS separates Academic Training into two categories:
• Pre-completion Academic Training: training that begins and ends during your enrolled coursework/studies at UW. To apply for pre-completion academic training, click here.
• Post-completion Academic Training: training that continues on or begins after your completion of coursework/studies at UWA. Post-completion Academic Training applications are due to ISS before completion of coursework/studies and before your current DS-2019 expires. To apply for pre-completion academic training, click here.

Before you apply for Academic Training through ISS, please send the following information to statPhDadv@stat.uw.edu:

• The goals and objectives of the specific Academic Training program.
• How Academic Training relates to your major field of study.
• Why is Academic Training an integral or critical part of your academic program.
• Academic Training site (name of organization/employer providing training).
• Academic Training address.
• Name of training supervisor.
• Number of hours per week.
• Start and end date of training.

You can find further information on the Academic Training program, including eligibility criteria, here.
9 Separating from the department

9.1 Exit survey
Ph.D. students who are separating from the department are asked to complete an online exit survey. The survey provides valuable information to the faculty and the department leadership and informs potential changes in program requirements and departmental procedures.

Students who are graduating are required to complete the exit survey immediately after passing their Final Examination, and before the Committee Signature Form is processed. As part of the survey, separating students who desire to expand on their experiences in the Ph.D. program can request a follow-up interview with either the Graduate Program Coordinator or the Department Chair.

9.2 Health Insurance
Students who are separating at the end of Spring quarter and have held a UW-paid GAIP-eligible appointment in all three quarters of the current academic year (Autumn, Winter and Spring) receive GAIP coverage in summer quarter as well, no matter their employment or enrollment status. If you are separating at any other time and you have GAIP coverage, it expires at the end of the corresponding period. Please see the “Health insurance” section of the “Health and safety” chapter for more details.

9.3 Keys
Any keys provided to you by the department must be returned no later than one month after the official end of the quarter in which you graduate. Keys can be returned three ways:

1. In person in the main office (B-313) when she is present
2. By placing the key in an envelope with your name on her desk (B-313) or her mailbox (B-313D)
3. By mailing address:

   Attn: Kristine Chan
   University of Washington
   Department of Statistics
   Box 354322
   Seattle, WA 98195-4322

When mailing keys, please DO NOT put them in a regular envelope. The keys are likely to tear through and become lost. We recommend tapping the key to a piece of stiff cardboard and inserting it in a padded mailer or using a paperboard envelope. If you have any questions, please email office@stat.uw.edu.

9.4 Cleaning up your office
When you clear out your office, please make sure that you have all of your belongings and send a photo of your desk area to office@stat.uw.edu to "check" that it is cleared. The deadline to clear offices is one month after the quarter the student graduate. Items left in the office after this point will be disposed of.
9.5 Email and Computing

Your UW NetID never expires, however many services attached to that ID expire after you have not been enrolled for two consecutive quarters, excluding summer quarter. These services include UW Outlook or UW Gmail, UW Zoom, Canvas and others. Expiration notifications are sent for some services.

Even after the expiration of services, you can continue to sign in with your UW NetID, and you can forward your UW email address to your own personal email address. You will not be able to access your UW inbox (on UW Outlook or UW Gmail) so you should forward/transfer any email messages you want to keep to a personal account. Your @stat.uw.edu email will continue to forward to your @uw.edu email address.

If you have a Statistics Computing Recharge account to access the cluster and other departmental computing resources, access will typically be disabled 2 weeks after the conclusion of your final quarter. You are encouraged to transfer any files you want to keep off departmental systems before that point.

If you will be collaborating with a Statistics faculty member after graduation and need access to cluster or other department computing resources, you can continue your Statistics Computing Recharge Account by either self-paying or by having your collaborator pay from grant funds. To make arrangements to continue your account, please contact office@stat.uw.edu.

9.6 Keeping up with us!

Please convey the following information to office@stat.uw.edu.

1. What are your plans after graduation? If employed, what is the title of your position, and the company/institution you will be working for?
2. What is a good email to reach you other than your @uw email address?
3. We strongly recommend graduates to join LinkedIn and link their profiles to the department.
## 10 Appendix A – Additional sample plans of study

Entering Program with a BS  
PhD CSSS Track with an emphasis on Statistical Demography

**Bolded** = course satisfies Ph.D. Degree Requirement  
**Italicized** = satisfies a required Ph.D. Degree Elective  
**Green** = satisfies Ph.D. Track for Statistics in the Social Sciences Requirement  
**Orange** = additional Ph.D. Degree Electives (not required, but recommended)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Autumn</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Very early summer</th>
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| STAT 502 (4)  
STAT 512 (4)  
STAT 590 (1)  
STAT 590B (1) | STAT 504 (4)  
STAT 513 (4)  
STAT 590 (1)  
CSSS 590 (1) | STAT 559 (3)  
STAT 534 (3)  
STAT 590 #1  
CSSS 590 (1)  
STAT 600 (2) | M.S. Theory Exam |
| STAT 570 (3)  
STAT 581 (3)  
STAT 590 (1)  
CSSS 590 (1)  
STAT 600 (2) | STAT 571 (3)  
STAT 582 (3)  
STAT 590 (1)  
CSSS 590 (1)  
STAT 600 (2) | STAT 572 (3)  
STAT 583 (3)  
STAT 590 (1)  
CSSS 590 (1)  
STAT 600 (2) | Research Prelim Exam |
| **SOC 513 (3)**  
STAT 516 (3)  
STAT 590 (1)  
STAT 600 (3) | **SOC 533 (3)**  
STAT 517 (3)  
STAT 590 (1)  
STAT 600 (3) | STAT 590 (1)  
CSSS 590 (1)  
STAT 599 (3)  
STAT 600 (5) | Supervisory Committee Approved |
| **CSSS 536 (3)**  
STAT 590 (1)  
STAT 597(3) (ADAP)  
CSSS 590 (1)  
STAT 600 (2) | CSSS 544 (3)  
STAT 590 (1)  
CSSS 590 (1)  
STAT 600 (5) | CSSS 564 (4)  
STAT 590 (1)  
CSSS 590 (1)  
STAT 600 (4) | General Exam |
| STAT 590 (1)  
STAT 800 (9) | STAT 590 (1)  
STAT 800 (9) | STAT 590 (1)  
STAT 800 (9)  
Dissertation Defense | |
Entering Program with an MS
Sample plan of study #2
PhD CSSS Track with an emphasis on Statistical Demography

**Bolded** = course satisfies Ph.D. Degree Requirement

**Italicized** = satisfies a required Ph.D. Degree Elective

**Green** = satisfies Ph.D. Track for Statistics in the Social Sciences Requirement

**Orange** = additional Ph.D. Degree Electives (not required)

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**Entering Program with a BS**

**PhD CSSS Track with an emphasis on Political Science**

**Bolded** = course satisfies Ph.D. Degree Requirement

**Italicized** = satisfies a required Ph.D. Degree Elective

**Green** = satisfies Ph.D. Track for Statistics in the Social Sciences Requirement

**Orange** = additional Ph.D. Degree Electives (not required)

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Entering Program with a BS
Sample plan of study #1
PhD Machine Learning and Big Data Track

**BYPASS STAT 571, THEREFORE, WILL COMPLETE APPLIED DATA ANALYSIS PROJECT (ADAP) REQUIREMENT**

This is a sample quarter-by-quarter plan of study that has been used in the past by some students. The number in parenthesis corresponds to the number of credits associated with each course.

**Black Bolded Courses** = satisfies Ph.D. Degree Requirement

**Green Bolded Courses** = satisfies Ph.D. Track for Machine Learning and Big Data Requirement

**Green Italicized Course** = Track Requirement – one required course selected from two to six courses

**Black Italicized Course** = Ph.D. Degree Elective

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|                          | STAT 590 (1)               | STAT 590 (1)               |                            |
|                          | STAT 600 (3)               | STAT 600 (2)               |                            |

|                          | STAT 521 (3)               | STAT 523 (3)               | Supervisory Committee Approved |
|                          | STAT 535 (3)               | STAT 590 (1)               |                            |
|                          | STAT 590 (1)               | STAT 599 (3)               |                            |
|                          | STAT 600 (3)               | STAT 600 (3)               |                            |

|                          | CHEM E 599 (1)             | CHEM E 599 (1)             |                            |
|                          | STAT 590 (1)               | STAT 590 (1)               | General exam               |
|                          | STAT 600 (8)               | STAT 600 (8)               |                            |

|                          | CHEM E 599 (1)             | STAT 590 (1)               | Dissertation Defense      |
|                          | STAT 590 (1)               | STAT 800 (9)               |                            |
|                          | STAT 800 (9)               |                            |                            |

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TOOK STAT 571 WHICH MAY BE USED IN PLACE OF THE
APPLIED DATA ANALYSIS PROJECT (ADAP) REQUIREMENT

This is a sample quarter-by-quarter plan of study that has been used in the past by some students. The number in parenthesis corresponds to the number of credits associated with each course.

**Black Bolded Courses** = satisfies Ph.D. Degree Requirement

**Green Bolded Courses** = satisfies Ph.D. Track for Advanced Data Science Requirement

**Green Italicized Course** = Track Requirement – one required course selected from two to six courses

**Black Italicized Course** = Ph.D. Degree Elective

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Entering Program with an MS
Sample plan of study #3
PhD Advanced Data Science Track (Transcriptable Option)

**BYPASSED STAT 571, THEREFORE, WILL COMPLETE APPLIED DATA ANALYSIS PROJECT (ADAP) REQUIREMENT**

Well-prepared students entering with a Master’s degree can aim to complete each of the stages mentioned below. This is achieved by waiving most or all of the M.S.-level courses normally taken in the first year. This is a sample plan of study that has been used in the past by some of these students. The number in parenthesis corresponds to the number of credits associated with each course.

**Black Bolded Courses** = satisfies Ph.D. Degree Requirement

**Green Bolded Courses** = satisfies Ph.D. Track for Advanced Data Science Requirement

**Green Italicized Course** = Track Requirement – one required course selected from two to six courses

**Black Italicized Course** = Ph.D. Degree Elective

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Entering Program with a BS  
Sample plan of study #1  
PhD Statistical Genetics Track

This is a sample quarter-by-quarter plan of study that has been used in the past by some students. The number in parenthesis corresponds to the number of credits associated with each course.

**Black Bolded Courses** = satisfies Ph.D. Degree Requirement  
**Green Bolded Courses** = satisfies Ph.D. Track for Statistical Genetics Requirement  
**Green Italicized Course** = Track Requirement – one required course selected from two courses  
**Black Italicized Course** = Ph.D. Degree Elective

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Entering Program with a BS
Sample plan of study #2
PhD Statistical Genetics Track

STAT 516-517 may substitute for STAT 570-571.

This is a sample quarter-by-quarter plan of study that has been used in the past by some students. The number in parenthesis corresponds to the number of credits associated with each course.

**Black Bolded Courses** = satisfies Ph.D. Degree Requirement

**Green Bolded Courses** = satisfies Ph.D. Track for Statistical Genetics Requirement

**Green Italicized Course** = Track Requirement – one required course selected from two courses

**Black Italicized Course** = Ph.D. Degree Elective

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<td>GENOME 562 (4)</td>
<td>STAT 590 (1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 597 (3) ADAP</td>
<td>STAT 90 (1)</td>
<td>STAT 600 (8)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>STAT 600 (5)</td>
<td>STAT 600 (4)</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOST 581 (1)</td>
<td>BIOST 581 (1)</td>
<td>BIOST 581 (1)</td>
<td>Dissertation Defense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 590 (1)</td>
<td>STAT 590 (1)</td>
<td>STAT 590 (1)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 800 (9)</td>
<td>STAT 800 (9)</td>
<td>STAT 800 (9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Well-prepared students entering with a Master’s degree can aim to complete each of the stages mentioned below. This is achieved by waiving most or all of the M.S.-level courses normally taken in the first year. This is a sample plan of study that has been used in the past by some of these students. The number in parenthesis corresponds to the number of credits associated with each course.

**Black Bolded Courses** = satisfies Ph.D. Degree Requirement

**Green Bolded Courses** = satisfies Ph.D. Track for Statistical Genetics Requirement

**Green Italicized Course** = Track Requirement – one required course selected from two courses

**Black Italicized Course** = Ph.D. Degree Elective

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Autumn</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Very early summer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BIOST 581</strong> (1)</td>
<td><strong>BIOST 581</strong> (1)</td>
<td><strong>BIOST 581</strong> (1)</td>
<td>Research Prelim Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STAT 570</strong> (3)</td>
<td><strong>STAT 571</strong> (3)</td>
<td><strong>STAT 572</strong> (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STAT 590B</strong> (1)</td>
<td><strong>GENOME 540</strong> (4)</td>
<td><strong>BIOS 550</strong> (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Incoming student seminar</strong></td>
<td><strong>STAT 590</strong> (1)</td>
<td><strong>STAT 590</strong> (1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STAT 600</strong> (5)</td>
<td><strong>STAT 600</strong> (2)</td>
<td><strong>STAT 590</strong> (1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BIOST 551</strong> (3)</td>
<td><strong>BIOST 552</strong> (3)</td>
<td><strong>BIOST 581</strong> (1)</td>
<td>Supervisory</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BIOST 581</strong> (1)</td>
<td><strong>BIOST 581</strong> (1)</td>
<td><strong>STAT 583</strong> (3)</td>
<td>Committee Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STAT 581</strong> (3)</td>
<td><strong>STAT 582</strong> (3)</td>
<td><strong>STAT 590</strong> (1)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>STAT 590</strong> (1)</td>
<td><strong>STAT 590</strong> (1)</td>
<td><strong>STAT 599</strong> (3)</td>
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<td><strong>BIOST 581</strong> (1)</td>
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<td><strong>BIOST 581</strong> (1)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>STAT 590</strong> (1)</td>
<td><strong>STAT 590</strong> (1)</td>
<td><strong>STAT 590</strong> (1)</td>
<td>General exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STAT 597</strong> (3) ADAP</td>
<td><strong>GENOME 562</strong> (4)</td>
<td><strong>STAT 600</strong> (8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STAT 600</strong> (5)</td>
<td><strong>STAT 590</strong> (1)</td>
<td><strong>General exam</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BIOS 581</strong> (1)</td>
<td><strong>BIOST 581</strong> (1)</td>
<td><strong>BIOST 581</strong> (1)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STAT 590</strong> (1)</td>
<td><strong>STAT 590</strong> (1)</td>
<td><strong>STAT 590</strong> (1)</td>
<td>Dissertation Defense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STAT 800</strong> (9)</td>
<td><strong>STAT 800</strong> (9)</td>
<td><strong>STAT 800</strong> (9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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11 Appendix B – List of fellowships and awards

Sources:

- [https://www.grad.washington.edu/graduate-student-funding/funding-information-for-students/fellowships/list-of-fellowships/](https://www.grad.washington.edu/graduate-student-funding/funding-information-for-students/fellowships/list-of-fellowships/)
- [http://sgsa.berkeley.edu/current_students/resources/fellowship/](http://sgsa.berkeley.edu/current_students/resources/fellowship/)

**General Fellowships**: (the type that funds your whole tuition/stipend for a year or something).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name/Link</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Application information and Eligibility</th>
<th>Previous winners / people to contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (GRFP)</td>
<td>Three years of tuition and stipend (~$34,000 per year).</td>
<td>Deadline is in late October Each year. Incoming students, 1st, and 2nd years can apply. You can only apply once as a current student (applying as an incoming student does not count towards limit). Must be a US Citizen.</td>
<td>Previous winners: Bryan Martin, Alan Min, Daniel Suen, David Marcano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Defense Science and Engineering Fellowship (NDSEG)</td>
<td>The NDSEG Fellowship lasts for 3 years and pays for full tuition and all mandatory fees; a monthly stipend ($38,400 annually); a $5,000 travel budget over the Fellow’s tenure for professional development; and up to $1,200 a year in health insurance.</td>
<td>US Citizen. Incoming students, 1st, and 2nd years.</td>
<td>Seth Temple, Andrea Boskovic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOE Computational Science Graduate Fellowships</td>
<td>Yearly stipend of $38,000. Up to 4 years of total support (must renew). A 12 week</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fellowship Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Eligibility</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DOE CSGF Math/Computer Science Track</td>
<td>The DOE CSGF's math/computer science track is intended for doctoral candidates in applied mathematics, statistics or computer science who undertake research that will contribute to more effective use of emerging high-performance computer systems.</td>
<td>US Citizen or permanent resident.</td>
<td>“The DOE CSGF’s math/computer science track is intended for doctoral candidates in applied mathematics, statistics or computer science who undertake research that will contribute to more effective use of emerging high-performance computer systems.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship</td>
<td>Three years of stipend, $27,000 per year. Attendance at “conference of ford fellows”.</td>
<td>US Citizen or permanent resident.</td>
<td>Deadline in December. Seems like incoming, 1st, and 2nd years are eligible. 3rd years maybe if you can show evidence that you will need 3 more years to complete PhD. *Committed to a career in Academia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship</td>
<td>One year of stipend.</td>
<td>US Citizen or permanent resident.</td>
<td>Deadline in December. Have one year left in PhD (only dissertation left). *Committed to a career in Academia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hertz Graduate Fellowship</td>
<td>$34,000/nine-month personal stipend, Full tuition equivalent,</td>
<td>US Citizen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellowship Name</td>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Application Deadline</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Microsoft Research Dissertation Grant</strong></td>
<td>1 year, $25,000 award for machine learning and optimization</td>
<td>Deadline in March of each year. Must be in 4th year or beyond to apply.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Google Fellowship</strong></td>
<td>Machine learning and optimization are considered eligible areas. You get a google research mentor.</td>
<td>Deadline is September 30th, 2021. But I think you might have to first apply internally at UW to become the UW nominee.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Facebook Fellowship</strong></td>
<td>Up to two years of $42,000 stipend plus tuition and fees.</td>
<td>Deadline around October 1st. Applied Statistics and Machine Learning and Computational Social Science are listed as eligible areas. Apparently this is open to people in all years of a program!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Graduate Fellowships for STEM Diversity</strong> (formerly, National Physical Sciences Consortium Graduate Fellowships in the Physical Sciences)</td>
<td>$20,000 annual allowance. Department covers tuition and fees. Support is for two or three years, or for a full six years, depending on the employer-sponsor.</td>
<td>Online applications open in late August and close on December 15. GFSD welcomes applications from any qualified U.S. citizen who has the ability to...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
pursue graduate work
at a GFSD university associate. **Applicants at any stage of their graduate program may apply**, as long as they will be available to accept two summers of paid internship. Those who already possess a doctoral degree are ineligible.

ASA science policy fellowship

1-2 years working in DC advocating for statisticians. PhD in statistics required.

Apply by May 1 to start September 2021.

Bloomberg Data Science PhD Fellowship

Full tuition, $35,000 stipend,$5,000 conference budget, required 14-week paid summer internship at Bloomberg starting in Summer 2022.

**More Specific Fellowships**: (the type that funds your whole tuition/stipend for a year or something, but subject to specific constraints).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name/Link</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Application information</th>
<th>Previous winners / people to contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Statistical Genetics Training Grant</strong></td>
<td>Requires that you take UW Stat Gen courses and do research with a UW Stat Gen faculty member.</td>
<td>Involves emailing Tim Thornton (UW Biostat) a CV and application form; they seem to accept these on a somewhat rolling basis. Must be a US Citizen?</td>
<td>Alan Min or Seth Temple are previous recipients.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Computational Neuroscience Training Grant</strong></td>
<td>Requires</td>
<td></td>
<td>Alec Greaves-Tunnell is a previous recipient. Possibly contact Daniela for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology</td>
<td>A little hard to tell from website if this still exists</td>
<td>Jessica Godwin. Nick Irons is a previous recipient</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UW / Pacific Northwest National Lab Fellowship</td>
<td>1 year fellowship with required summer internship. National security focus</td>
<td>Contact Nathan Kutz professor in Applied Math department</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Awards for Specific Papers or Projects:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name/Link</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Application information</th>
<th>Previous winners / people to contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASA Student Paper Competitions</td>
<td>Earn travel awards to ASA sponsored conferences. Most sections sponsor an award, check the link for a list</td>
<td>Deadlines around December 15th, some sections might be earlier.</td>
<td>Sheridan Grant and Peter Gao are recent recipients.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John J Bartko Scholarship</td>
<td></td>
<td>Within two years of finishing a masters degree in statistics or biostatistics.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSPA Conference Grant Program for Students and Recent Graduates</td>
<td>The ASA Section for Statistical Programmers and Analysts (SSPA) has a small grant program to pay the primary registration fees for section members who have recently graduated and who want to attend an ASA conference.</td>
<td>• The applicant must be a member of the SSPA in the year for which funds are requested. • The conference must be an ASA-sponsored conference such as the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) or the ASA Conference on Statistical Practice.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lester Curtin Award</td>
<td>The award will provide $1,000 for general registration and travel support in addition to up to $400 toward CE course registration offered at the ASA Conference on Statistical Practice, which</td>
<td>Applications due in October.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
takes place every February.
Applicants must be preparing for work in the field of health statistics (broadly defined as either applied)

ASA student and early career travel fund
The purpose of the fund is to encourage students and early-career professionals to become engaged in the statistical community through participation in ASA-sponsored professional meetings. The selection of students to support is based on both merit and financial need.

Application is due 3 months prior to whatever conference you wish to attend.
If you win, you must submit an essay for STATr@k describing your conference experience.

Awards attached to Conferences:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name/Link</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Application information</th>
<th>Previous winners / people to contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lingzi Lu Memorial Award</td>
<td>Supports dedicated students in a master’s program in statistics. The award provides up to $1300 for registration and travel support to the ASA Conference on Statistics Practice.</td>
<td>Applicants must be enrolled or have graduated in the last two years from a statistics or biostatistics Master’s program. Applications are due October 15.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student and Early Career Travel Fund</td>
<td>The purpose of this fund is to encourage students and early-career professionals to participate in ASA-sponsored professional meetings. Selection of students is based on both merit and financial need.</td>
<td>Students must be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program in statistics or data science, and an ASA member. Applications are due at least 3 months prior to the start of the conference they are applying for. Winners will</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
be announced no longer than two months prior to the conference.

**UW-Specific Awards:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name/Link</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Application Information</th>
<th>Previous winners/ people to contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Graduate School Medal</strong></td>
<td>Given to a doctoral candidate whose academic expertise and social awareness are integrated in a way that demonstrates a commitment to the University and larger community. $5000 award.</td>
<td>UW doctoral candidate. Deadline is April 15. Departments can only nominate one student.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Distinguished Dissertation Awards</strong></td>
<td>These awards recognize outstanding and exceptional scholarship and research at the doctoral level. $1000 award.</td>
<td>This year nominations are only allowed in biological sciences and humanities and fine arts. Presumably other years nominations are allowed in the other categories (social sciences and mathematics, physical sciences, and engineering). Nominations must be submitted by the department chair or GPC and are due May 18.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Distinguished Thesis Award</strong></td>
<td>This award recognizes outstanding and exceptional research and writing by a UW master's student in any discipline. $1000 award.</td>
<td>Nominations are due May 18. Nominees must have successfully defended their thesis for a Master’s degree between July 1 and June 30 of the current year.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WAGS/UMI Innovation in Technology Award</strong></td>
<td>This award is given for the development of innovative technology in a thesis or dissertation.</td>
<td>For a master’s or doctoral level student.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
and its utilizations for the creative solution of a major problem. $1000 award.

**Excellence in Teaching Awards**
Recognizes the contributions of graduate student instructors to the scholarship of teaching and learning.

Current UW Seattle campus graduate teaching assistants or instructors are eligible.

Nominations due around mid November.

**Bonderman Graduate Travel Fellowships**
Travel the world by yourself for 6-12 months.

Natalie Gasca from Biostats did this!!

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## Miscellaneous Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name/Link</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Application information</th>
<th>Previous winners / people to contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gertrude Cox Scholarship</strong></td>
<td>$1,000 one time award. Women who are US Citizens are eligible. They tend to grant one award to an “early career” student and one to a “more advanced” student.</td>
<td>Deadline in February of each year. Personal essay and three letters of rec.</td>
<td>Daniela?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASA Pride Scholarship</strong></td>
<td>The ASA Pride Scholarship was established to raise awareness for and support the success of LGBTQ+ statisticians and data scientists and allies.</td>
<td>Candidates must be in a statistics or data science graduate program of have completed a degree within 5 years. They must identify as LGBTQ+ or an ally.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Annie T. Randall Innovator Award</strong></td>
<td>This award was established to recognize</td>
<td>Candidates should be in the early phase of their</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholastic Award</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Eligibility</td>
<td>Deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earlycareer statistical innovators</td>
<td>early-career statistical innovators across all job sectors and with any level of education. It was named in honor of the pathbreaking Black female statistical Annie T. Randall. $2000 award.</td>
<td>professional statistical careers. Submissions are due by March 15 each year.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biopharmaceutical section scholarship award</td>
<td>Recognizes notable research, academic achievement, and applied project work related to biopharmaceutical statistics. Annually 5 students will receive a $1000 award.</td>
<td>Students must be enrolled in a Master’s or doctoral program in stat or biostat. They must be ASA members. Deadline of March 15.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryant Scholarship for Outstanding Graduate Student in Survey Statistics</td>
<td>$2,500 if you do survey statistics</td>
<td>Applications are due March 1st (personal essay, letters of rec, etc).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Statistics Section Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship</td>
<td>This scholarship supports work toward a career in government statistics. It provides up to $1000 for exploring a broad number of opportunities.</td>
<td>Candidates must have a bachelor’s degree and show an interest in government statistics. Deadline of April 1.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>