Statistics as a Secondary Field

The Harvard Statistics Department has always had a strong methodological and application-oriented focus, and it has consequently attracted students with their primary focus in another discipline, such as Psychology, Economics, Sociology, Government, Earth and Planetary Sciences, or Biology (both OEB and MCB). These students aim to gain a solid background in statistics so that they can apply it in their primary field or fields of interest.

REQUIREMENTS: 4 courses (16 credits)

3. Two additional courses in Statistics, with course numbers above 111. Computer Science 109A, Computer Science 109B, Computer Science 181, Statistics 107, and Statistics 109 can also be counted toward this requirement.

OTHER INFORMATION

All courses must be letter-graded and taken during the academic year. Harvard Summer School courses do not count toward the requirements. Courses taken during study abroad would not normally count toward the secondary field requirements. A minimum grade of C is required in all secondary field courses.

Mathematics preparation including multivariable calculus and linear algebra at the level of Mathematics 19A and 19B or equivalent or above (such as Mathematics 21A for multivariable calculus and Mathematics 21B for linear algebra) is a prerequisite for many Statistics courses numbered 110 and above.

ADVISING RESOURCES AND EXPECTATIONS

Interested students should contact the Co-Directors of Undergraduate Studies, Professor Joseph Blitzstein (blitzstein@stat.harvard.edu) and Professor Michael Parzen (mparzen@stat.harvard.edu), or the Assistant Director of Undergraduate Studies, Professor Kevin Rader (krader@fas.harvard.edu), who serve as advisers for the secondary field in Statistics, and the Student Programs Administrator, Kathleen Cloutier, Science Center 400E (617-496-1402, cloutier@fas.harvard.edu).