UF College of Public Health & Health Professions
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Biostatistician

What do biostatisticians do?

Biostatisticians use statistical methods to collect and analyze data and help solve real-world problems in healthcare and medical sciences.

Where do biostatisticians work?

Biostatisticians can work for the government, private industry, and in academic institutions.

How much do statisticians earn?

The median annual wage for statisticians was $75,560 in May 2012.

How is the job market for statisticians?

Employment of statisticians is projected to grow 27 percent from 2012 to 2022, much faster than the average for all occupations. Growth is expected to result from more widespread use of statistical analysis to make informed business, healthcare, and policy decisions. As the healthcare sector is also projected to see steady growth, the outlook for biostatisticians is especially favorable.

How do I know if biostatistics is for me?

Biostatisticians have excellent math, and critical thinking problem solving skills. Biostatisticians also need good communication skills because they most often work as part of a team.

How to become an biostatistician

Statisticians typically need a master's degree in statistics mathematics. Research and academic jobs generally require a Ph.D. A bachelor's degree in statistics is not needed to enter a graduate program. However, significant coursework in statistics or mathematics is essential for entering an MS or PhD program. Required subjects for a bachelor's degree in statistics include differential and integral calculus, statistical methods, mathematical modeling, and probability theory.

Becoming biostatistician at UF

The College of Public Health and Health Professions offers three degree programs in biostatistics: a master's of public health, a master of science in biostatistics, and a PhD in biostatistics. The MPH with a concentration in biostatistics is a 2-year, 48 credit program that includes an internship in a public health setting. The master's of science is a 36-credit, two-year program that prepares students for careers in biostatistics practice. The PhD is 90-credit program that culminates with researching and writing a dissertation.

Applicant profile

- Prerequisites: (PhD Only)

  Three semesters of calculus

  One semester of linear algebra

  Introductory statistics course

  *Preferred: calculus based probability course

- Prerequisites: (MPH):

  Bachelor's degree

Graduate statistics

Most graduate students complete the MS and MPH programs in 2 years and the PhD program in 5 years. Approximately one-quarter of MS students go on to earn a PhD and about 50% of MS graduates and 70% of PhD graduates are known to have secured a job in the work force within one year of graduation.

Contact

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Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook, www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare