Statistics

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ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

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The Statistics Department has two primary purposes - to offer introductory statistics courses to students from many different majors at Cal Poly, and to offer a curriculum of diverse statistics courses for those students pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Statistics or a minor in the discipline.

In this age of high technology it has become increasingly easy to record and store information resulting from experiments, surveys, and historical studies. It is the responsibility of the professional statistician to determine the best ways to collect, summarize and analyze these data. Because of the increasing number of quantitative studies that are conducted in fields ranging from medicine to agriculture to business, the professional statistician is in great demand.

It has been projected that the job market for those with substantial statistical training remains healthy into the foreseeable future. Recent graduates of the program at Cal Poly are working for companies in fields as varied as insurance, aircraft manufacturing, banking, computer manufacturing, and pharmaceutical development.

Undergraduate Programs

BS Statistics

The statistics degree program requires students to have a solid foundation in mathematics and computer science. With this basis the students take courses in the following areas: analysis of variance, regression analysis, statistical computing, sampling methods, experimental design, analysis of categorical data, multivariate analysis, time series and forecasting, survival analysis, probability, and mathematical statistics.

Throughout the program faculty encourage students to work on practical, realistic problems that require the understanding of all aspects of the data acquisition and analysis process.

Actuarial Preparation Minor

For information regarding the Actuarial Preparation Minor, please see College of Science and Mathematics (http://catalog.calpoly.edu/collegesandprograms/collegeofsciencemathematics) section.

Cross Disciplinary Studies Minor in Data Science

Through an inter-college collaboration, the Computer Science and Statistics departments offer a cross-disciplinary minor in Data Science -- a rapidly evolving discipline that uses elements of statistics and computer science to gather, organize, summarize, and communicate information from a variety of data sources and data types. Job opportunities for data scientists are growing as the availability of data becomes ever abundant via the internet, consumer transactions, sensor arrays, medical records, embedded biometrics, bioinformatics, etc.

The CDSM provides an opportunity for both statistics and computer science students to complement their major training with foundational skills for data science. Statistics majors will acquire essential programming, database, distributed computing, and data mining skills from the Computer Science Department while computer science majors will acquire essential probability, regression modelling, statistical programming, and multivariate analysis skills from the Statistics Department.

Statistics Minor

The Statistics minor program allows students from across the University to acquire substantial statistical skills that can be applied in their own disciplines.