

MS in Biostatistics

Admission Requirements

In addition to the Graduate College minimum requirements, applicants must meet the following program requirements:

- **Baccalaureate Field**
 - A major in the biological, computational, economics, mathematical, physical, psychological, social, or statistical sciences is preferred.
 - MS in Biostatistics students applying to the concentration in Health Data Science must have completed four math courses in algebra and calculus. Exceptions may be granted for applicants with relevant work experience or high-level academic achievements. Exceptions may be admitted with an individually documented plan of study to compensate for deficiencies, although applicants are strongly encouraged to satisfy all deficiencies prior to matriculation.
- **Grade Point Average** At least 3.00/4.00.
- **Tests Required** None. Standardized test scores are optional. Test scores are not required but will be considered if an applicant chooses to submit them.
- **English Proficiency** Additional information on the English proficiency test requirement for international students can be found on the [UIC Admissions website](#). Minimum test scores for this program are:

Exam	Score	Reading	Listening	Speaking	Writing
TOEFL iBT (exams taken on or after January 21, 2026)	4.5	4	4	4.5	4.5
TOEFL iBT (exams taken prior to January 21, 2026)	80	19	17	20	21
IELTS Academic	6.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
PTE Academic	54	51	47	53	56

- **Letters of Recommendation** Three required.
- **Personal Statement** Required; the statement should address the applicant's intended research, career goals, and reason for pursuing the MS degree.
- **Other Requirements** Students must have earned a grade of B or above in both Calculus I and Calculus II.

Degree Requirements

In addition to the Graduate College minimum requirements, students must complete the following program requirements:

- **Minimum Semester Hours Required:** 42
- **Coursework:**
 - *Generalist Program:* School-wide requirements totaling 6 semester hours, at least 32 semester hours in divisional core courses, and the remaining hours in elective coursework. At least 9 semester hours must be at the 500 level. No more than 5 semester hours of IPHS 596 may be applied to the degree.
 - *Health Data Science Concentration:* School-wide requirements totaling 6 semester hours, and the remainder as specified in divisional core courses and electives.

School-Wide Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
School of Public Health Core Requirements		
EPID 403	Introduction to Epidemiology: Principles and Methods	
IPHS 450	Foundations and Determinants of Public Health	
BSTT 400	Biostatistics I ^a	
Required Non-Credit Training		
	Human Subjects Training	
	Title IX Training	
	SPH Academic Integrity Tutorial	

a *BSTT 400 is not required for students in the MS in Biostatistics, Generalist Concentration or the MS in Biostatistics, Health Data Science Concentration.*

Divisional Core Requirements

MS in Biostatistics, Generalist Program

In addition to the Graduate College minimum requirements and the School of Public Health core requirements, students must complete the following divisional requirements to reach 42 semester hours.

Code	Title	Hours
Biostatistics Divisional Core Requirements		
BSTT 506 or BSTT 507	Design of Clinical Trials Sampling and Estimation Methods Applied to Public Health	
BSTT 523	Biostatistics Methods I	
BSTT 524	Biostatistics Laboratory	
BSTT 527	Statistical and Machine Learning Methods for Data Science	
BSTT 535	Categorical Data Analysis	
BSTT 536	Survival Analysis	
BSTT 537	Longitudinal Data Analysis	
BSTT 550	Biostatistical Investigations	
BSTT 510	Biostatistics Theory I	
BSTT 511	Biostatistics Theory II	

Electives

A minimum of 4 semester hours of electives. BSTT 400, BSTT 401, and BSTT 505 are not suitable electives.

MS in Biostatistics, Concentration in Health Data Science

In addition to the Graduate College minimum requirements and the School of Public Health core requirements, students must complete the following divisional requirements to reach 42 semester hours.

Code	Title	Hours
Health Data Science Divisional Core Requirements		
BSTT 426	Python for Data Science and Large Language Models	
BSTT 510	Biostatistics Theory I	
BSTT 511	Biostatistics Theory II	
BSTT 523	Biostatistics Methods I	
BSTT 527	Statistical and Machine Learning Methods for Data Science	
BSTT 528	Advanced Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence for Data Science	
BSTT 529	Health Data Science Investigations	
BSTT 535	Categorical Data Analysis	

Electives

Students must take a minimum of 8 semester hours in electives. BSTT 400, BSTT 401, and BSTT 505 are not suitable electives.

Recommended Courses:

BSTT 536	Survival Analysis
BSTT 537	Longitudinal Data Analysis
BHIS 542	Artificial Intelligence

Other Requirements

- **Thesis, Project, or Coursework-Only Options:** Coursework only.
 - Biostatistics students in the Generalist Program and Health Data Science Concentration complete the program through coursework only.