

**Department of Bioinformatics and Biostatistics**  
**University of Louisville**  
**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) for the MS and Ph.D. Programs**

Q: How can I apply to your MS or Ph.D. program in Biostatistics?

A: Please check out our graduate school website and follow directions. <http://graduate.louisville.edu/apply-for-admission.html#2>

Q: What are the educational background requirements for admission?

A: For a MS admission, we do require some basic math courses, such as Linear Algebra and Calculus I and II in your undergraduate training. These are departmental requirements in addition to university requirements. If you do not meet this requirement at the time of admission, the Admissions Committee has the option of considering you for a provisional admission.

For a Ph.D. admission, the applicant is required to have a master's degree. Our program is designed for someone with a MS in biostatistics or statistics. MS degree holders of other closely related disciplines can also be considered for admission. However, they may need one extra year of coursework to complete the doctoral program.

Q: Are there any requirements for GRE?

A: Yes. We do require the GRE General Test score. For MS admissions, our department requires that the score for the quantitative reasoning portion should be above the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile. We require a higher percentile ( $\geq$  70th percentile) in quantitative reasoning for doctoral admission. These are also departmental requirements in addition to university requirements.

Q: Is the TOEFL required for international students?

A: Yes, unless you already have a degree from a US school. The TOEFL score should be at least 213 for the computer-based test, 550 for the paper-based test, or 79 for the internet-based test.

Q: What is the deadline for applying? When will I receive the decision?

A: Applications are only accepted for the Fall semester. There are no Spring or Summer admissions. There is no formal deadline. It is best to apply as early as possible, especially if you are an international student or wish to be considered for financial assistance. Once our Admission Committee reaches a decision, you will be notified by both email and letter.

Q: Is there any financial support for students in the Biostatistics MS or Ph.D. programs?

A: We currently do not offer departmental financial support to MS students. We are working to get a partial tuition waiver for our MS students, but that is not guaranteed. The best thing you can do is to find a part-time job on campus. For example, our medical school is very large; many faculty members have funding and may need some basic statistical analysis. We also strive to get funding to support our outstanding second year MS students and get them involved in research. We also try to retain the best MS students for our Ph.D. program.

A limited number of fellowships and research assistantships are given to our Ph.D. students on a competitive basis. There are also some smaller tuition awards. A number of our senior students are supported on individual faculty grants. There are also NIH programs that may provide support for US citizens or permanent residents pursuing a degree in the area of public health. Check out the NIH website at <http://grants.nih.gov/training/extramural.htm>.

Q: What are the advantages of the University of Louisville (UofL) Biostatistics programs compared to other similar programs in the USA?

A: There are a few advantages:

- a) Our program is solid and strong. Though the program is still young, our MS graduates are very competitive in the job market and in their Ph.D. study. Our MS graduates are able to find employment in pharmaceutical companies, health insurance companies, and medical centers. Our Ph.D. graduates have a 100% employment rate and received employment in academia, government, public and private sector jobs.
- b) We have a higher acceptance rate at this stage. Our students enjoy small classes and closer relationships with faculty.
- c) Louisville, Kentucky is a mid-sized city with lower living costs and a friendly environment. The rent is about \$200-\$400 per month. The University of Louisville is one of the largest public universities in the state of Kentucky. The weather here is mild, with four seasons.