BIOSTATISTICS (BSTA)

BSTA 511 Biostatistics in Practice
Biostatistics in Practice offers Biostatistics students an opportunity to acquire and demonstrate proficiency in statistical collaboration, data analysis and scientific writing. The project is defined by several elements: A scientific question or hypothesis arising in medical research; the statistical methodology needed to address the question; the development of a study design and/or analysis of a relevant data set; and a summary of the results of these analyses. In most cases, a collaborating medical scientist provides the research question and the data. The student, under the supervision of a biostatistics faculty member, identifies the appropriate statistical methods and conducts the analysis. The analysis should be sufficiently extensive and detailed to support a manuscript publishable in the medical literature. Enrollment open to Biostatistics student only.
Taught by: Nandita Mitra
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

BSTA 550 Applied Regression and Analysis of Variance
An applied graduate level course in multiple regression and analysis of variance for students who have completed an undergraduate course in basic statistical methods. Emphasis is on practical methods of data analysis and their interpretation. Covers model building, general linear hypothesis, residual analysis, leverage and influence, one-way analysis of variance, two-way analysis of variance, factorial analysis. Primarily for doctoral students in the managerial, behavioral, social and health sciences. Permission of instructor required to enroll.
Taught by: Rosenbaum
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: PSYC 611, STAT 500
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

BSTA 620 Probability I
This course covers Elements of (non-measure theoretic) probability necessary for the further study of statistics and biostatistics. Topics include set theory, axioms of probability, counting arguments, conditional probability, random variables and distributions, expectations, generating functions, families of distributions, joint and marginal distributions, hierarchical models, covariance and correlation, random sampling, sampling properties of statistics, modes of convergence, and random number generation. Two semesters of calculus (through multivariate calculus), linear algebra, or permission of the instructor to enroll.
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

BSTA 621 Statistical Inference I
This class will cover the fundamental concepts of statistical inference. Topics include sufficiency, consistency, finding and evaluating point estimators, finding and evaluating interval estimators, hypothesis testing, and asymptotic evaluations for point and interval estimation.
Prerequisite: If course requirements not met, permission of instructor.
Course usually offered in spring term
Prerequisite: BSTA 620
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

BSTA 622 Statistical Inference II
This class will cover the fundamental concepts of statistical inference. Topics include sufficiency, consistency, finding and evaluating point estimators, finding and evaluating interval estimators, hypothesis testing, and asymptotic evaluations for point and interval estimation.
Course usually offered in fall term
Prerequisite: BSTA 621
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

BSTA 630 Statistical Methods and Data Analysis I
This first course in statistical methods for data analysis is aimed at first-year Biostatistics students. It focuses on the analysis of continuous data. Topics include descriptive statistics (measures of central tendency and dispersion, shapes of distributions, graphical representations of distributions, transformations, and testing for goodness of fit); populations and sampling (hypotheses of differences and equivalence, statistical errors); one- and two-sample t tests; analysis of variance; correlation; nonparametric tests on means and correlations; estimation (confidence intervals and robust methods); categorical data analysis (proportions; statistics and test for comparing proportions; test for matched samples; study design); and regression modeling (simple linear regression, multiple regression, model fitting and testing, partial correlation, residuals, multicollinearity). Examples of medical and biologic data will be used throughout the course, and use of computer software demonstrated. Multivariable calculus and linear algebra and permission of instructor required to enroll.
Course usually offered in fall term
Prerequisite: BSTA 620
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

BSTA 632 Statistical Methods for Categorical and Survival Data
This is the second half of the methods sequence, where the focus shifts to methods for categorical and survival data. Topics in categorical include defining rates; incidence and prevalence; the chi-squared test; Fisher’s exact test and its extension; relative risk and odds-ratio; sensitivity; specificity; predictive values; logistic regression with goodness of fit tests; ROC curves; the Mantel-Haenszel test; McNemar’s test; the Poisson model; and the Kappa statistic. Survival analysis will include defining the survival curve, censoring, and the hazard function; the Kaplan-Meier estimate, Greenwood’s formula and confidence bands; the log rank test; and Cox’s proportional hazards regression model. Examples of medical and biologic data will be used throughout the course, and use of computer software demonstrated.
Course usually offered in spring term
Prerequisite: BSTA 620 AND BSTA 621 AND BSTA 630
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

BSTA 633 Statistical Methods for Categorical and Survival Data
BSTA 651 Introduction to Linear Models and Generalized Linear Models
This course extends the content on linear models in BSTA 630 and BSTA 632 to more advanced concepts and applications of linear models. Topics include the matrix approach to linear models including regression and analysis of variance, general linear hypothesis, estimability, polynomial, piecewise, ridge, and weighted regression, regression and collinearity diagnostics, multiple comparisons, fitting strategies, simple experimental designs (block designs, split plot), random effects models, Best Linear Unbiased Prediction. In addition, generalized linear models will be introduced with emphasis on the binomial, logit and Poisson log-linear models. Applications of methods to example data sets will be emphasized.
Course usually offered in spring term
Prerequisite: BSTA 620 AND BSTA 630 AND BSTA 621 AND BSTA 632
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

BSTA 656 Longitudinal Data Analysis
This course covers both the applied aspects and methods developments in longitudinal data analysis. In the first part, we review the properties of the multivariate normal distribution and cover basic methods in longitudinal data analysis, such as exploratory data analysis, two-stage analysis and mixed-effects models. Focus is on the linear mixed-effects models, where we cover restricted maximum likelihood estimation, estimation and inference for fixed and random effects and models for serial correlations. We will also cover Bayesian inference for linear mixed-effects models. The second part covers advanced topics, including nonlinear mixed-effects models, GEE, generalized linear mixed-effects models, nonparametric longitudinal models, functional mixed-effects models, and joint modeling of longitudinal data and the dropout mechanism. If course requirements are not met, permission of instructor required.
Taught by: Wensheng Guo
Prerequisite: BSTA 621 AND (BSTA 631 OR BSTA 632) AND BSTA 651 AND (BSTA 653 OR BSTA 754)
Activity: Lecture
0.5 Course Units

BSTA 660 Design of Observational Studies
This course will cover statistical methods for the design and analysis of observational studies. Topics for the course will include epidemiologic study designs, issues of confounding and hidden bias, matching methods, propensity score methods, sensitivity analysis, and instrumental variables. Case studies in biomedical research will be presented as illustrations. Prerequisite: If course requirements not met, permission of instructor required.
Taught by: Rebecca Hubbard
Activity: Lecture
0.5 Course Units

BSTA 661 Design of Interventional Studies
This course is designed for graduate students in statistics or biostatistics interested in the statistical methodology underlying the design, conduct, and analysis of clinical trials and related interventional studies. General topics include designs for various types of clinical trials (Phase I, II, III), endpoints and control groups, sample size determination, and sequential methods and adaptive design. Regulatory and ethical issues will also be covered. Prerequisite: If course requirement not met, permission of instructor required.
Taught by: Alisa Stephens Shields
Activity: Lecture
0.5 Course Units

BSTA 670 Statistical Computing
This course concentrates on computational tools, which are useful for statistical research and for computationally intensive statistics. Through this course you will develop a knowledge base and skill set of a wide range of computational tools needed for statistical research. Topics include computer storage, architecture and arithmetic; random number generation; numerical optimization methods; spline smoothing and penalized likelihood; numerical integration; simulation design; Gibbs sampling; bootstrap methods; and the EM algorithm. Prerequisite: If course requirements not met, permission of instructor required.
Taught by: Kristin Linn
Prerequisite: BSTA 651 AND BSTA 620 AND BSTA 621
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

BSTA 699 Lab Rotation
Activity: Laboratory
0.33 Course Units

BSTA 750 Statistical Methods for Risk Prediction and Precision Medicine
This is an advanced elective course for graduate students in Biostatistics, Statistics, Epidemiology, and other BGS disciplines. It will cover various topics for evaluating the performance of biomarkers to predict risk of clinical or disease outcomes, specifically including relative, absolute and competing risks for binary and time-to-disease outcomes; statistical inference for quantifying predictive accuracy with binary and time-to-event outcomes; statistical methods and inference for case-control study designs; Efficient study design issues for biomarker evaluation. This course is designed to help students 1) understand various concepts of risk in the medical literature; 2) understand various statistical methods for evaluating prediction performance of biomarkers and diagnostic tests and for designing efficient biomarker studies; 3) improve the ability to read critically papers published in statistical and medical journals on related topics; and 4) develop research ideas for risk prediction. Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to: 1) Conduct statistical analysis for evaluating prediction performance of biomarkers and diagnostic tests; 2) Have a better ability to read and understand papers published in statistical and medical journals on related topics; and 3) Be well prepared to work on related topics for dissertation.
Taught by: Jinbo Chen
Course usually offered in fall term
Prerequisite: BSTA 630 AND BSTA 632
Activity: Lecture
0.5 Course Units
**BSTA 751 Statistical Methods for Neuroimaging**
This course is intended for students interested in both statistical methodology, and the process of developing this methodology, for the field of neuroimaging. This will include quantitative techniques that allow for inference and prediction from ultra-high dimensional and complex images. In this course, basics of imaging neuroscience and preprocessing will be covered to provide students with requisite knowledge to develop the next generation of statistical approaches for imaging studies. High-performance computational neuroscience tools and approaches for voxel- and region-level analyses will be studied. The multiple testing problem will be discussed, and the state-of-the art in the area will be examined. Finally, the course will end with a detailed study of multivariate pattern analysis, which aims to harness patterns in images to identify disease effects and provide sensitive and specific biomarkers. The student will be evaluated based on 3 homework assignments and a final in-class presentation. Prerequisite: If course requirement not met, permission of instructor required.

Prerequisite: BSTA 621 AND BSTA 651
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

**BSTA 754 Advanced Survival Analysis**
This advanced survival analysis course will cover statistical theory in counting processes, large sample theory using martingales, and other state of the art theoretical concepts useful in modern survival analysis research. Examples in deriving rank-based tests and Cox regression models as well as their asymptotic properties will be demonstrated using these theoretical concepts. Additional potential topics may include competing risk, recurrent event analysis, multivariate failure time analysis, joint modeling of survival and longitudinal data, sample size calculations, multi-state models, and complex sampling schemes involving failure time data. In addition to satisfying course prerequisites, permission of instructor is required.

Taught by: Doug Schaubel
Course usually offered in fall term
Prerequisite: BSTA 622
Activity: Lecture
0.5 Course Units

**BSTA 777 Statistical Methods for Meta-Analyses**
This graduate-level Biostatistics course will introduce the fundamentals of statistical methods for meta-analyses. It will cover key principles of meta-analysis and the statistical rationales behind the analytic models, including univariate meta-analysis, multivariate meta-analysis, meta-analysis of diagnostic test accuracy, network meta-analysis, and multivariate network meta-analysis. Beyond these commonly used models, the course will cover statistical methods and software that investigate and correct for biases in systematic reviews such as publication bias, outcome reporting bias. Advanced statistical inferential tools such as publication bias, outcome reporting bias. Advanced statistical inferential tools such as composite likelihood, pseudolikelihood, integrated likelihood methods, EM algorithms will be introduced. In addition, the course will also cover some practical steps in systematic review including search strategies, data abstraction methods; quality assessment; and writing a meta-analysis report. The course is composed of a series of weekly lectures and small group discussions. Students will be expected to attend weekly lectures, participate in class discussions, review assigned readings, complete homework assignments, and conduct a real-world meta-analysis with a clinically meaningful problem. Fundamentals of Biostatistics background or permission of instructor required to enroll.

Taught by: Yong Chen
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

**BSTA 782 Stat Meth/Incomplet Data**
Selected topics from public health and biomedical research where "Big data" are being collected and methods are being developed and applied, together with some core statistical methods in high dimensional data analysis. Topics include dimension reduction, detection of novel association in large datasets, regularization and high dimensional regression, ensemble learning and prediction, kernel methods, deep learning and network analysis. R programs will be used throughout the course, other standalone programs will also be used. Prerequisite: If course requirement not met, permission of instructor required.

Taught by: Qi Long
Course usually offered in spring term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

**BSTA 787 Methods for Statistical Genetics and Genomics in Complex Human Disease**
This is an advanced elective course for graduate students in Biostatistics, Statistics, Epidemiology, Bioinformatics, Computational Biology, and other BGS disciplines. This course will cover statistical methods for the analysis of genetics and genomics data. Topics covered will include genetic linkage and association analysis, analysis of next-generation sequencing data, including those generated from DNA sequencing and RNA sequencing experiments. Students will be exposed to the latest statistical methodology and computer tools on genetic and genomic data analysis. They will also read and evaluate current statistical genetics and genomics literature. Prerequisite: If course requirements not met, permission of instructor required.

Taught by: Mingyao Li
Prerequisite: (BSTA 630 AND BSTA 632) OR (EPID 520 AND EPID 521)
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
BSTA 789 Big Data
Selected topics from public health and biomedical research where "Big data" are being collected and methods are being developed and applied, together with some core statistical methods in high dimensional data analysis. Topics include dimension reduction, detection of novel association in large datasets, regularization and high dimensional regression, ensemble learning and prediction, kernel methods, deep learning and network analysis. R programs will be used throughout the course, other standalone programs will also be used. Prerequisite: If course requirement not met, permission of instructor required. Taught by: Hongzhe Lee
Prerequisite: BSTA 621 AND BSTA 622
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

BSTA 790 Causal Inference in Biomedical Research
This course considers approaches to defining and estimating causal effects in various settings. The potential-outcomes approach provides the framework for the concepts of causality developed here, although we will briefly consider alternatives. Topics considered include: the definition of effects of scalar or point treatments; nonparametric bounds on effects; identifying assumptions and estimation in simple randomized trials and observational studies; alternative methods of inference and controlling confounding; propensity scores; sensitivity analysis for unmeasured confounding; graphical models; instrumental variables estimation; joint effects of multiple treatments; direct and indirect effects; intermediate variables and effect modification; randomized trials with simple noncompliance; principal stratification; effects of time-varying treatments; time-varying confounding in observational studies and randomized trials; nonparametric inference for joint effects of treatments; marginal structural models; and structural nested models. Prerequisite: If course requirement not met, permission of instructor required. Taught by: Nandita Mitra
Course not offered every year
Prerequisite: BSTA 620 AND BSTA 621 AND BSTA 622 AND BSTA 630 AND BSTA 631
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

BSTA 899 Pre-Dissertation Research
Activity: Lecture
0.5 Course Units

BSTA 920 Guided Dissertation Research
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

BSTA 990 Guided Dissertation Research
Activity: Masters Thesis
1.0 Course Unit

BSTA 995 Dissertation
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Dissertation
1.0 Course Unit