



Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Statistics

Guidelines for Statistics PhD Students

Revised Fall 2025

Year 1	1. Complete year 1 core courses (see coursework for details) 2. Take the QEP (Theory and Data Analysis) in August of Year 1
Year 2	1. Complete Year 2 core courses 2. Re-take the QEP if either part was failed in Year 1 3. Choose advisor and research topic
Year 3	1. Complete coursework 2. Choose Doctoral Advisory committee members (at least 4 members including the major and co-major professors) 3. Take the comprehensive exam (written and oral).
Year 4	1. Complete dissertation proposal
Year 5	1. Apply for graduation through Athena 2. Defense 3. Exit interview

Core Requirements

The core of the PhD degree consists of two parts: A First-Year core, for students who have not had previous equivalent training elsewhere, and a Second-Year core.

Requirements for students entering prior to Fall 2025

The First-Year core provides training in

- Linear Models and Statistical Learning: STAT 6430 and STAT 8260
- Probability and Inference: STAT 6810 and 6820.

The Second-Year core covers

- STAT 8060 Computing Techniques in Statistics I
- STAT 8170 Probability Theory
- STAT 8350 Bayesian Data Analysis
- STAT 8530 Advanced Inference

Requirements for students entering in Fall 2025 or Later

The First-Year core provides training in

- Linear Models and Statistical Learning: STAT 6420, STAT 8260, and STAT 8330. Concurrent registration in STAT 6421 and STAT 8331 are required for PhD students registered for STAT 6420 and STAT 8330, respectively.
- Probability and Inference: STAT 6810 and 6820.

The Second-Year core covers

- STAT 8060 Computing Techniques in Statistics I
- STAT 8170 Probability Theory
- STAT 8530 Advanced Inference
- STAT 8620 Advanced Statistical Models

Elective Requirements

You may choose 5 electives from among all 8000-level courses, *except* 8040, 8200, 8250, 8910, 8920, and any 8000-level course cross-listed with Biostatistics and Bioinformatics.

With the approval of DGS II, up to two graduate courses (typically at the 8000 level) from disciplines outside of statistics may be counted as electives.

Other Relevant Course Comments:

1. As required by the graduate school, all new graduate students must take GSRC 7001 (1 credit GradFIRST seminars) in their first or second semester. For more information, please see [GradFirst](#).
2. [By UGA's TA Policy](#), all graduate students with instructional duties must complete GRSC 7770 prior to or concurrently with their first TA-ship.
3. A full-time student who is receiving financial assistance from the University must take a total of at least 15 credit hours per term prior to passing the Qualifying Exam for PhD (QEP) and 18 credit hours per term after passing the QEP.
4. [By UGA's TA Policy](#), international TAs must demonstrate English proficiency by taking the language courses LLED 7768 and 7769. If TOEFL speaking score ≤ 22 , please take both courses. If $23 \leq$ TOEFL speaking score ≤ 25 , take only LLED 7769. If TOEFL speaking score > 25 , no need to take the language courses. If one takes LLED 7769 (TOEFL speaking score > 22) in the Fall, one needn't take GRSC 7770. If one takes LLED 7769 (TOEFL speaking score > 22) in the Fall, one needn't take GRSC 7770.
5. The Department encourages all PhD students to enroll in STAT 8910 (1 credit) from second to sixth semester.

Qualifying Exam for PhD (QEP)

1. To be qualified as a doctoral student, a student admitted to the PhD program must pass the Theory and Data Analysis parts of the PhD Qualifying Exam (QEP). Both parts of the QEP will be offered once per year in August. **More details about the exam can be found in the graduate handbook.**
2. Before the first Fall semester, a student may attempt one or both parts of the QEP or may not attempt any part of the QEP. Before the first Fall semester, if a student passes one or both parts of the QEP, then he/she skips the first-year core coursework.
 - (i) Before the second Fall semester, a student who has attempted one or both parts of the QEP previously must attempt the uncleared part(s) of the exam, but a student who has not yet attempted the QEP must attempt both parts of the exam.
 - (ii) To remain in the PhD program, a student must pass both parts of the exam before the third Fall semester, with no more than two attempts allowed for either part of the QEP.
3. The [Director of Graduate Studies \(Advising\)](#) will send out a sign-up sheet for the QEP in April. Previous years' QEP exams are available on the Departmental ELC page entitled "Statistics Graduate Student Documents. If you do not have access to the ELC page, please contact the [Student Affairs Professional](#).

Comprehensive Exam

1. Notify the [Student Affairs Professional](#) and [Director of Graduate Studies \(Advising\)](#) when one plans to take the Comprehensive Exam.
2. Program of Study, Advisory Committee forms, and the time and the location of the oral part of the Comprehensive Exam must be submitted to Graduate School at least 2 weeks prior to the oral exam. The forms must be submitted at <https://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/forms/>.
3. A sample PhD program of study is shown on the last page of this document.

Dissertation Proposal

1. Notify the [Student Affairs Professional](#) and [Director of Graduate Studies \(Advising\)](#) before one schedules his/her proposal.
2. Schedule proposal with advisory committee. Notify the [Director of Graduate Studies \(Advising\)](#) and the [Student Affairs Professional](#) with the time and location of the proposal presentation.
3. After the proposal presentation, submit Application for Admission to Candidacy form online at <https://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/forms/>.

Defense

1. Notify the [Student Affairs Professional](#) and [Director of Graduate Studies \(Advising\)](#) before one schedules the defense.
2. Schedule defense with advisory committee.
3. Please ensure that you send the defense date, location, as well as the dissertation's title and abstract to the [Student Affairs Professional](#) at least two weeks before the scheduled defense date.
4. After defending, submit Approval Form for Doctoral Dissertation and Final Oral Examination (G164) on Grad Status (<https://gradstatus.uga.edu/Forms>).

Exit Interview

1. Return your office key to the departmental [Administrative Associate](#).
2. Complete the on-line exit interview form. The [Student Affairs Professional](#) will send you the link to the exit interview form.

Internship

1. Notify the [Director of Graduate Studies \(Advising\)](#).

Doctoral Program of Study

1. The Program of Study should consist of at least 18 hours of approved 8000-level courses in addition to dissertation writing (9300) and directed study (9000). No grade below C will be accepted on the Program of Study. To be eligible for graduation, one must maintain a 3.0 (B) average on the graduate transcript and a 3.0 (B) average on the Program of Study.
2. Courses must be listed throughout consecutive semesters, except that Summers may be omitted.
3. **No courses used for another degree may be listed.**
4. **Three hours of 9300 must be included for the last semester** on the Program of Study.