



Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Statistics

Guidelines for Statistics MS Students Revised Fall 2025

Coursework

There are two tracks of MS degrees, exam-track and thesis-track. Both tracks require 5 core courses (15 hours), as described in Item 1 below and either 6 courses (exam track) or 4 courses (thesis track), as described in item #2 below.

1. **Core courses:**

Statistical Methods: STAT 6420 &
STAT 6430 **Mathematical Statistics:**
STAT 6510 & STAT 6520 **Statistical**
Consulting/Collaboration: STAT 8000

2. **Electives:** At most two of the elective courses may be approved graduate courses from some discipline other than statistics. At least one elective must be graduate-only.

Elective courses for the MS degree include all 6000- and 8000-level courses except STAT 6210, 6220, 6230, 6315, 8040, 8050, 8200, 8910, 8920, and any other 6000- or 8000-level course aimed primarily at students who are not in Statistics.

3. If one selects the Thesis option, one should take STAT 7000 and 7300 under one's advisor's name.
4. As required by Graduate School, all new graduate students must take GSRC 7001 (1 credit GradFIRST seminars) in their first or second semester. The Statistics Department currently offers its own version of GSRC 7001 in the Spring semester. For more information, please see [GradFIRST - UGA Graduate School](#). GSRC 7001 must be included in the program of study.

5. By TA Policy, all graduate students with instructional duties must complete GRSC 7770 prior to or concurrently with their first semester on TA-ship.

QEM (Qualifying Exam for Master's Degree)

1. The QEM exam (Data Analysis) is given twice per year; once in May and once in January.
2. A student has two chances to pass the exam. If one fails the first attempt, one may attempt it again at a subsequent offering. If one fails a second time, his/her only option for obtaining the MS degree is to successfully write and defend an MS thesis.
3. One must complete at least 4 of the 5 core courses before attempting the QEM.
4. Previous years' QEM 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](#) .

Graduation

1. Notify the Department [Student Affairs Professional](#) and [Director of Graduate Studies \(Advising\)](#) to: declare whether you are on the Exam track or on the Thesis track
2. Apply for graduation through Athena; Deadline for application is often the third Friday of graduation semester.
3. Submit Program of Study (for both Thesis and Exam track) and Advisory Committee (only for Thesis track) forms for Master at <https://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/forms/>. Deadline for application is often the third Friday of graduation semester. A sample program of study is shown below for both Thesis track (Table 1) and Exam track (Table 2).
4. For Thesis track, schedule your defense and notify the [Student Affairs Professional](#) at least two weeks before the defense.

Instructions for Master Program of Study

It should be submitted by Friday of the second full week of classes (first week for Summer) of the semester in which the student intends to graduate.

1. Courses should be listed in the order taken.
2. Must contain at least 33 credit hours. The thesis option: 5 core courses + 4 electives + STAT 7000 + STAT 7300. The Exam option: 5 core courses + 6 electives
3. Must contain no grade below "C" for any listed course.
4. Must contain no courses used for another degree.
5. Must contain at least 12 credits in 6000- or 8000-level courses open only to graduate students (i.e., not a split-level course).

Exit Interview

1. If you have an office key, please return your key to the [Departmental Administrative Associate](#).
2. Complete the on-line exit interview form.

Internship

1. Notify the [Director of Graduate Studies \(Advising\)](#).
2. International students must apply for CPT through the office of global engagement. To apply for CPT, one must register for STAT 7700 (an internship course) during the semester of the internship.

Table 1: A Sample MS Program of Study (Thesis track)

<i>Subject / Course #</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Grad Level Only?</i>	<i>Validated? Grad School Only</i>
STAT 6420	3	A	Fall	2017	Yes	
STAT 6510	3	A	Fall	2017	Yes	
STAT 6800	3	A-	Fall	2017	No	
STAT 6520	3	A-	Spring	2018	Yes	
STAT 8000	3	A	Spring	2018	Yes	
STAT 6430	3	B-	Spring	2018	Yes	
STAT 6280	3	A	Fall	2018	No	
STAT 6620	3	B+	Fall	2018	No	
STAT 7000	3	S	Fall	2018	No	
STAT 6250	3		Spring	2019	No	
STAT 7300	3		Spring	2019	No	

Table 2: A Sample MS Program of Study (Exam Track)

<i>Subject / Course #</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Grad Level Only?</i>	<i>Validated? Grad School Only</i>
STAT6800	3	B	Fall	2019	Yes	
STAT6510	3	A	Fall	2019	Yes	
STAT6420	3	B-	Fall	2019	Yes	
STAT6280	3	A	Fall	2019	No	
STAT6430	3	B+	Spring	2020	Yes	
STAT8000	3	B-	Spring	2020	Yes	
STAT6520	3	B	Spring	2020	Yes	
BINF8950	3	A-	Spring	2020	Yes	
STAT8001	3	A	Fall	2020	Yes	
STAT8350	3	A-	Fall	2020	Yes	
STAT8330	3	B+	Fall	2020	Yes	