MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES, MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.S.) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN STATISTICS

Program goal
The Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics and the Department of Statistical Sciences and Operations Research jointly offer the M.S. in Mathematical Sciences.

The mission of the Department of Statistical Sciences and Operations Research is to offer a strong undergraduate and graduate education, with an increasing focus on the development of cross-disciplinary efforts that will prepare students for real-world applications and stimulating employment and career opportunities.

The program offers maximum flexibility by allowing students, in consultation with their graduate committees, to design a course of study that will best develop competence in those areas most relevant to their scholarly and professional objectives. Students may obtain a designation on their transcripts indicating that their graduate study has emphasized the mathematics concentration by completing the requirements that are listed here. A student who has not satisfied the requirements for one of the program concentrations offered, but who has otherwise fulfilled all the requirements for a master’s degree, will be awarded a degree of Master of Science in Mathematical Sciences without any specialization.

Student learning outcomes
1. Students will demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of basic statistical concepts, probability and inference, general linear modeling, calculus, and linear algebra.
2. Students will know how to select appropriate samples and conduct appropriate experimental data collection methods.
3. Students will be able to perform appropriate analysis of data, including knowledge of the assumptions associated with the procedures and how to determine the appropriate procedure to use.
4. Students will be able to use statistical software packages to solve various problems.
5. Students will know how to clearly and concisely present technical information in writing and through oral presentations.

VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs
The VCU Graduate Bulletin website documents the official admission and academic rules and regulations that govern graduate education for all graduate programs at the university. These policies are established by the graduate faculty of the university through their elected representatives to the University Graduate Council.

It is the responsibility of all graduate students, both on- and off-campus, to be familiar with the VCU Graduate Bulletin as well as the Graduate School website (http://www.graduate.vcu.edu) and academic regulations in individual school and department publications and on program websites. However, in all cases, the official policies and procedures of the University Graduate Council, as published on the VCU Graduate Bulletin and Graduate School websites, take precedence over individual program policies and guidelines.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regps)

Degree candidacy requirements
A graduate student admitted to a program or concentration requiring a final research project, work of art, thesis or dissertation, must qualify for continuing master’s or doctoral status according to the degree candidacy requirements of the student’s graduate program. Admission to degree candidacy, if applicable, is a formal statement by the graduate student’s faculty regarding the student’s academic achievements and the student’s readiness to proceed to the final research phase of the degree program.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following degree candidacy policy as published in the VCU Graduate Bulletin for complete information and instructions.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regps/grad/candidacy)

Graduation requirements
As graduate students approach the end of their academic programs and the final semester of matriculation, they must make formal application to graduate. No degrees will be conferred until the application to graduate has been finalized.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following graduation requirements as published in the Graduate Bulletin for a complete list of instructions and a graduation checklist.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on graduation requirements. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regps/grad/graduation-info)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Mar 1</td>
<td>GRE-General</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td>TOEFL (International students only)</td>
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In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/admission-graduate-study/admission-requirements), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Thirty credit hours in undergraduate mathematical sciences, computer science or related areas of which at least 18 credit hours must represent upper-level courses
2. Three letters of recommendation pertaining to the student’s potential ability as a graduate student in mathematical sciences
Provisional admission may be granted when deficiencies exist. These deficiencies must be removed by the end of the first year of residence, or its part-time equivalent, when the student’s application will be re-examined. Courses that are remedial or designed to remove deficiencies will not be accepted for credit hours toward the fulfillment of the course requirements for the master’s degree.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to meet the following requirements.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the M.S. in Mathematical Sciences program are required to earn a minimum of 30 graduate-level credit hours. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.

2. Other requirements: All students must pass two comprehensive examinations: statistical theory (covering STAT 513 and STAT 514) and statistical application (covering STAT 546, STAT 642 and STAT 643). All students will be given two attempts to pass each exam.

**Curriculum requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concentration core courses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSOR 690 Research and Communications Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>STAT/BIOS 513 Mathematical Statistics I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT/BIOS 514 Mathematical Statistics II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 546 Linear Models</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 642 Design and Analysis of Experiments I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 643 Applied Linear Regression</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

**Additional courses**

- Statistics electives (Choose courses from list one below.) 6
- Statistics and allied fields electives (Choose courses from list two below.) 6

Total Hours 30

If student previously received credit for STAT 513/BIOS 513 and/or STAT 514/BIOS 514 or their equivalents, then one or two other statistics courses must be taken in their place.

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30**

**List one: recommended electives in statistics**

- 500-, 600- or 700-level STAT courses, except the following:
  - STAT 508 Introduction to Social Statistics
  - STAT 543 Statistical Methods I
  - STAT 544 Statistical Methods II
  - STAT 608 Statistics for Social Research

**List two: recommended electives in statistics and allied fields**

- 500-, 600- or 700-level MATH, OPER, STAT or SYSM courses, except the following:
  - MATH 661 Number and Operations
  - MATH 662 Geometry and Measurement
  - MATH 663 Functions and Algebra
  - MATH 664 Statistics and Probability

**Graduate program director**

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**Program website:** ssor.vcu.edu (http://ssor.vcu.edu)