PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Master of Science in Statistics is primarily an applied program designed to prepare students for careers as statisticians in a variety of organizations, both public and private, including businesses, industrial plants, consulting agencies, hospitals, educational institutions, and research and development centers. The program offers a balance of statistical theory and statistical methodology, and provides students with an opportunity to concentrate in a field of application of their choice. Graduates from this program will be prepared to deal with the various phases of data collection planning and with the statistical analyses of data.

The program consists of a total of 36 credit hours, and it involves either ten graduate level courses and a thesis or twelve graduate level courses and a comprehensive examination. Either with the thesis or the non-thesis option, the curriculum consists of a core of six courses (18 hours), a set of four elective courses or an area of concentration (12 hours), and either a thesis or two additional elective courses (6 hours).

A maximum of six credit hours of post-baccalaureate graduate course work may be transferred from other institutions, subject to approval of the graduate committee. Also, no more than 12 graduate level semester hours earned at FIU as a non-degree seeking student may be counted toward the 36-credit requirement of the master’s degree.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

• Bachelor’s degree or equivalent from a regionally accredited institution or, in the case of foreign students, an institution recognized as an institution of higher learning.
• A minimum ‘B’ average (3.0 GPA on a 4-point scale) in upper level (undergraduate) work, or a minimum combined score of 1000 on the quantitative and verbal sections of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). (For information about taking the GRE test, please refer to the web site http://www.gre.org/.)
• Mathematics and statistics background: The minimum mathematics background required is calculus through multivariable calculus, and linear algebra. No minimum background in statistics is required.
• Three letters of recommendation regarding the candidate’s academic potential from persons familiar with the candidate’s academic qualifications.
• Approval by the Graduate Committee of the Department of Statistics.

FINANCIAL AID

Some teaching assistantships are available from the Department and the College of Arts and Sciences. They are awarded on a competitive basis. Currently, the recipient of a teaching assistantship receives both a stipend of about US$12,000 per academic year and tuition waiver.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Prospective candidates submit an application for admission into the graduate program online, steps to apply and deadlines can be found on: https://admissions.fiu.edu/how-to-apply/graduate-applicant/

• Applicants should arrange to have official transcripts from all colleges and/or universities attended and test scores (GRE, TOEFL/IELTS/duolingo, if a foreign student) sent to the Admissions Office.
• Transcripts in a language other than English must be translated and certified.
• Three letters of reference should be submitted.
• There is a $30.00 application fee.

Florida International University has a rolling admissions policy.
CURRICULUM

Core Courses (18 hrs):

• Data Analysis I and II
• Mathematical Statistics I and II
• Design of Experiments
• Linear Models

Elective Courses or Concentration Area (12 hrs): Four courses are to be chosen from a long list of 5000-, 6000-, and 7000-level elective statistics courses. For students interested in an area of concentration, a set of four cognate courses from within and outside of the department may be chosen with the prior approval of the graduate committee. Various areas of concentration might be possible, and students are encouraged to consult with the graduate advisor.

Thesis and Non-Thesis Options (6 hrs):
Students may opt to write a thesis and defend it before their thesis committee or may instead take two additional elective courses and pass a comprehensive examination.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

• A total of 36 credit hours of course work including the thesis if applicable.

• Grade and GPA requirements: a) cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher in all courses; b) a grade of ‘B’ or higher in each core course; and c) a grade of ‘C’ or higher in each elective or concentration course.

• A candidate who opts to write a thesis must successfully defend the thesis orally and have the written thesis approved by his/her thesis committee.

• A candidate who chooses the non-thesis option must take and pass a comprehensive examination.