

## Frequently Asked Questions about Our Program

### What can I do with a Master of Science in Applied Statistics?

This degree prepares graduates for careers in business, industry, government or academics. To find out more about what statisticians do, see the American Statistical Association's Career Center at

<http://www.amstat.org/careers/whatdostatisticiansdo.cfm>.

### What salary can I expect?

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median salary in 2012 for mathematicians specializing in statistics was \$75,560 per year and the number of jobs in this field is projected to grow 27 percent from 2012-2022. Visit <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/math/statisticians.htm> for more information.

### What is special about BGSU's M.S. Applied Statistics program?

We are excited to offer the MSAS with a specialization in business analytics. The business analytics specialization at BGSU prepares students for careers using computing and data in concert with statistics by combing a foundation of statistics with skills in management of information systems and business operations. Writing on the growing opportunities in the fields of business analytics and big data, McKinsey & Company, a global management-consulting firm, found that "by 2018 the United States alone could face a shortage of 140,000 to 190,000 people with deep analytical skills." ([http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/business\\_technology/big\\_data\\_the\\_next\\_frontier\\_for\\_innovation](http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/business_technology/big_data_the_next_frontier_for_innovation))

### How are our recent graduates doing?

Graduates praise the professors in the MSAS program for taking an active role in helping them prepare for future careers and use their real world data to provide a foundation for lessons. Graduates have used their degree as a foundation to enter Ph.D. programs at top institutions like the Harvard, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Michigan and UCLA. Former graduates have gone on to become faculty members in top universities at Yale University, Columbia University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and West Virginia University. Graduates of the program have also pursued careers in public health and clinical research with organizations such as the Harvard School of Public Health, the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Eli Lilly and Company, and the John Wayne Cancer Institute. Other graduates have moved on to careers with banking, manufacturing, insurance, and other private companies. Some

## FAQ for prospective students.docx

well-known companies that our graduates have gone on to work with include Capital One, Morgan Stanley, Honda, Nike, American Greetings, Hallmark, Microsoft, eBay, Amazon, the Walt Disney Company, Delta Airlines, BP, Nationwide Insurance, and Allstate Insurance, as well as many others.

### Are there minimum requirements for acceptance?

Admission to the MSAS programs is competitive so there is no minimum GRE score or undergraduate GPA that will guarantee admission. We select the most highly qualified applicants from the pool each year.

### How long is the MS Applied Statistics program?

A total of 33 credits are required for the MS Applied Statistics (MSAS) degree. The degree can be completed in three semesters (Fall, Spring, Fall). The MSAS with a specialization in Business Analytics requires 39 credits and is generally completed in four semesters.

### Is there an application deadline?

While there is no formal application deadline, to be fully considered for funding, your application must be received by March 1, so applying early is strongly encouraged.

### Are assistantships available?

Funds (scholarships and assistantships/stipends) are available to qualified applicants on a limited and competitive basis. Assistantship duties may include working in a tutoring center or our Center for Business Analytics, assisting faculty members with research or teaching, teaching a section of an introductory course, or administrative duties.

### I took the GMAT, do I still need to take the GRE?

No- if you have already taken the GMAT, you do not need to take the GRE.

### I took IELTS, do I still need to take TOEFL?

No- if you took IELTS, you are not required to take TOEFL.

Is the MSAS program considered a STEM program?

Yes- the MSAS program at BGSU is categorized as a STEM program. Applied Statistics and Operations research are considered STEM, specifically part of Mathematical and Computer Sciences.

Can I send recommendation letters through email?

YES. You can email the recommendation letter to Mrs. Carol Mathis [cmathis@bgsu.edu](mailto:cmathis@bgsu.edu)

Can I send all of my application materials directly to the ASOR department?

No- you will need to follow the application procedure and directions laid out by the University in order to ensure proper filing of your application. The University, not the Department, collects your application materials and creates a file for you. Sending your application materials directly to the Department will significantly delay your application process.

I have questions about my student visa, who should I contact?

Please note the department only evaluate your academic credentials. Any questions regarding the visa, please contact BGSU International Student Service directly at <http://www.bgsu.edu/international-student-services.html>

As an international student, will I be required to take English courses?

International students may be required to take one or more English as Second Language courses. The need for such course will be determined during the orientation week in August. Please see <http://www.bgsu.edu/arts-and-sciences/english/english-for-speakers-of-other-languages.html> for more information.

I have not taken many mathematics courses as an undergraduate. Will I still be able to apply for the Applied Statistics graduate program, and will I be required to take prerequisite courses before I start?

Many of our students did not earn undergraduate degrees in mathematics or statistics. We have had students start and complete our program with a wide variety of academic backgrounds from English and Law to Finance and Economics. While a mathematical basis is helpful, our faculty work with all students to accommodate their backgrounds, and ensure that our students master the statistics material. Generally, prerequisite courses can be waived, though the student will have to put some effort into learning these concepts.

I am interested in getting a Ph.D. in statistics. Can I pursue my Ph.D. in applied statistics at BGSU?

The ASOR program at BGSU does not offer a Ph.D. program. However, many of our former students have used their degree from our program as a foundation to enter Ph.D. programs at top institutions such as Harvard, Penn, the University of Michigan, UCLA, and many others. Also, the Math & Statistics Department at BGSU does offer a Ph.D. program in statistics. For more information on the Math & Statistics Department at BGSU and their Ph.D. programs, please visit their website:

<http://www.bgsu.edu/arts-and-sciences/mathematics-and-statistics/graduate-programs/phd-programs.html>.

What is the likelihood that I will receive a graduate assistantship?

While we strive for all of our students to have assistantships, there are many factors that determine how many students receive assistantships. These factors include the University's budget, the qualification of applicants, the number of applicants, and open positions. Approximately 60% of our current students have assistantships.

What kind of graduate assistantship opportunities exist? Are there opportunities to work as a teaching assistant as part of a graduate assistantship?

YES. Graduate assistantships at BGSU are divided into three categories – administrative, research, and teaching. Students that receive an administrative graduate assistantship work with our Department, and other Departments in the College of Business, helping to run the day-to-day activities of the Department. Students that receive a research assistantship work with faculty members, helping perform research. Finally, students that receive a teaching assistantship assist faculty in teaching courses, and can include running labs, giving lectures, and grading assignments. Placement into these categories of assistantships depends on the number of applicants, the qualification of applicants, the University budget, and the availability of open positions.

Is my scholarship/assistantship award offer for the academic year or only for the Fall semester?

The scholarship/assistantship offer specifies that the offered scholarship is for both Fall and Spring semesters so long as the student's performance remains satisfactory (maintaining 3.0 GPA and full-time student status). If these performance requirements are not met, the scholarship for the next semester may be revoked or diminished.

They type of graduate assistantship offered to me is not mentioned in my contract offer letter. What type of job will I work and when will I find out?

The three types of graduate assistantships are discussed above. The Department will not place students into graduate assistantship positions until a few weeks before the start of the Fall semester. Graduate assistantship placement is determined based on budgetary allowances, Departmental/College/University needs, and student skills.

Is it possible to get an increased scholarship amount after I commit to coming to BGSU?

It is possible but the chance is slim that students will receive an increased scholarship offer after they are sent the initial contract offer. However, outside scholarship funding is encouraged, but the student is responsible for searching and applying for any external funding. Additionally, students who have completed the 1<sup>st</sup> year of their ASOR studies and return to BGSU for their 2<sup>nd</sup> year with a satisfactory performance usually receive slight increases in their scholarship amount, but this is no guarantee and is dependent on the College of Business and Department budgets.

Since the program takes 3 to 4 semesters, will I receive the same tuition scholarship offer in my 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> semesters (2<sup>nd</sup> year) as I did for my 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> semesters (1<sup>st</sup> year)?

For the majority of our students, the scholarship and graduate assistant funding continues, and could increase, going into the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. However, this is contingent on the University/Department budget and on the number of total students in the MSAS program. Further, continued scholarship and assistantship funding is also dependent on student performance (maintaining 3.0 GPA and full-time student status).

Where do I find information on places to live, the cost of living in Bowling Green, and what life is like in Bowling Green?

The Office of Off-Campus Student Services at BGSU provides resources for all students planning to live off-campus. Their website (<http://www.bgsu.edu/off-campus-student-services.html>) includes information on local rental agencies, finding a place to live, the BGSU shuttle routes, parking services, and an off-campus living guide. The Office of Off-Campus Student Services can be reached by phone at (419)-372-2843.

### What if I have some non-academic-performance questions?

The Department of Applied Statistics has only one duty in the admissions process, to evaluate students' academic performance. Applying for an international student visa, helping students find housing arrangements, and any other issue outside of academic performance can be directed to the BGSU Graduate College.

### Can I apply for the **Spring** admission?

Yes it is possible to start your program in the Spring semester.

### Am I eligible to apply for the **Spring** assistantship or scholarship?

No! While it is possible to start your program in the Spring semester, the deadline to apply for assistantships is March 1<sup>st</sup> the year before Fall classes. However, you may apply for an assistantship for the following Fall semester after not having one in the Spring semester.

### When is the deadline for international students to apply?

The deadline varies from year to year, but generally for international students the deadline is around two months before the semester starts. For domestic students the deadline is around two weeks before the semester starts.

### I have a 3-year-bachelor degree in a foreign country; Am I eligible for an MS in applied statistics?

Maybe. It depends on multiple factors including your school's accreditation and the type of program you were in, etc. We advise sending a scanned copy of your transcript and/or diploma to Carol Mathis [cmathis@bgsu.edu](mailto:cmathis@bgsu.edu) in order to make an assessment to whether it would be equivalent to a bachelor's degree in US. Please note that if you apply to our program we would still need official copy of your transcripts.

## How do I apply?

### For Domestic applicants:

Domestic applicants for the M.S. Applied Statistics should do the following:

- Complete the official online application form for Graduate College admission (accompanied by a \$45 application fee). Please go to <http://www.bgsu.edu/graduate/admissions.html> to complete the application.
- Forward the following documents to Graduate Admissions at the address below
  - One official transcript from each college or university you have attended
  - Your Graduate Record Examination (GRE) aptitude test scores.

**Office of Admissions  
Attn: Graduate Admissions  
110 McFall Center  
Bowling Green State University  
Bowling Green, OH 43403-0083**

- Forward the following documents to the Graduate Coordinator at the address below
  - Three letters of recommendation
  - One copy of your current resume
  - Personal statement about why you want to pursue an M.S. Applied Statistics at BGSU

**Carol Mathis  
Secretary  
344 College of Business  
Department of Applied Statistics and Operations Research  
Bowling Green State University  
Bowling Green, OH 43403**

For International applicants:

International applicants for the M.S. Applied Statistics should do the following:

- Complete the official online application form for Graduate College admission (accompanied by a \$75 application fee). Please go to <http://www.bgsu.edu/graduate/admissions.html> to complete the application.
- Forward the following documents to Graduate Admissions at the address below
  - One official transcript from each college or university you have attended
  - Your Graduate Record Examination (GRE) aptitude test scores.
  - Your TOEFL or IELTS test scores (if native language is not English).

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