

Statistics Track (B.A.) and Statistics Minor

General summary:

Statistics is the art and science of using quantitative analysis to get insight from data for solving real-life problems. As such, it's the ideal job field for the "information age" in the 21st century, in which people are flooded with so much data that they don't know how to make sense of it. Statisticians help people in other fields use data to solve problems in the real world.

Students interested in jobs or grad school in statistics or actuarial science can major in math and specialize on the **Statistics Track**. Students in other fields can pursue a **Statistics Minor**, so that they can apply powerful stat concepts and methods and techniques to analyze information from work in their major field.

Average number of recent stat trackers/minors graduating per year: 3

Acceptance rate of recent stat trackers/minors applying to graduate programs: 100%

in... statistics, biostatistics, applied statistics, operations research,
psychology, sociology, philanthropic studies, non-profit management, economics
at...

- Iowa State U
- Ohio State U
- North Carolina State U
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Air Force Institute of Technology
- George Washington U
- Bowling Green State U
- Virginia Institute of Technology
- Miami U
- Florida International U
- U of Illinois

By the way, ISU, OSU, and NCSU above are among the top 5 stat grad programs in the country!

Strengths of the statistics programs:

1. Extremely practical real-world application of quantitative analysis
2. Information-age job field with great pay and growth potential
3. Perfect for combining with other majors and minors in which data are used
4. Witt is one of only a few liberal arts schools nationwide with a stat track and stat minor

In the past two years, students have participated in the following **service-learning internships and field experiences**:

- Helping local neuromuscular massage therapist Laurel Finch design, carry out, and analyze a multi-factor study on over 100 subjects concerning jaw dysfunctions
- Assessing the impact of after-school arts education programs for at-risk youth by Springfield's national award-winning Project Jericho
- Analyzing the effects of programs to reduce the recidivism rate from juvenile court, through the Center for Civic and Urban Engagement

What can students do with a degree in this field?

Statisticians use data to help people in other fields solve problems. In this sense, they get to play in everybody else's back yard. Statisticians work in all phases of **business, government, industry, academia, insurance and investment, research, public service, consulting**, etc. Here's what a few recent stat trackers/minors are doing:

Andy Bates '09 is now a statistical analyst for the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Brian Bennett '08 is an actuary for Geico Insurance in Washington, DC

Jennie Williams '06 got a graduate degree in Biostatistics from Ohio State

Jon Stewart '06 develops statistical forecasting models at the Federal Reserve Bank in NYC

Katie Westlund '05 uses her stat minor to help non-profits write successful grant applications

Bri Barclay '04 is a statistical survey sampling analyst with the Leavey Center in Los Angeles

Jessica Counts '04 uses her M.S. in statistics at the U.S. Census Bureau

Katie Joseph '03 uses her M.S. in statistics at the U.S. Department of Energy

Of particular note, **actuaries** are the stat/math brains behind the entire insurance and investment industries, so stat study is essential for actuarial science, which is a powerful hybrid of stat, math, economics, and business. Recent Witt stat trackers and minors have become actuaries at the following firms:

- Nationwide
- Progressive
- Geico
- Motorists Insurance
- Mercer
- Employers Reinsurance Corporation