

## **FAQ: 5-YEAR ACCELERATED BACHELOR'S / MASTER'S PROGRAM IN STATISTICS**

### **Interested in Getting a Bachelor's AND Master's Degree in Statistics in 5 Years?**

The accelerated B.S./M.S. program offers an outstanding statistics major the opportunity to obtain both a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Statistics and a Master of Science (M.S.) in Statistics in a period of five years.

### **When should I start thinking about doing this?**

You can start thinking about it early in your time at USC, so that you can take STAT 511 and STAT 512 early enough to qualify for the accelerated program.

### **When should I formally apply for the accelerated program?**

During or after the semester in which 90 credit hours are completed toward the B.S. degree in Statistics, a student may apply for the Department of Statistics Accelerated B.S./M.S. Education Plan. This is typically during the student's third year, at the latest.

The official application form for the accelerated program is at:

[https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges\\_schools/graduate\\_school/documents/g-abgsp.pdf](https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/graduate_school/documents/g-abgsp.pdf)

### **What are the GPA requirements?**

Provisional admission to and continuation in the Department of Statistics Accelerated B.S./M.S. Education Plan will require at least a 3.4 overall GPA and at least a 3.4 GPA in Statistics and Mathematics courses.

### **Who needs to approve the student's entry into the accelerated program?**

The application will require the approval of the Student's Undergraduate Advisor, the Graduate Director in Statistics, and the Dean of Arts and Sciences.

### **When will I finish the B.S. degree?**

It is expected that students opting for the plan will complete their B.S. requirements by the end of their eighth semester.

### **When should I take the entrance exam for graduate school?**

Students admitted provisionally to the plan must take the general Graduate Record Examination (GRE) before the end of their seventh semester.

### **If I am accepted into the accelerated program, does it mean that I am guaranteed to be accepted into the M.S. program in statistics at USC?**

No. You must formally apply to be admitted as an M.S. student during your fourth year. Continuation in the plan after the eighth semester requires that the student be admitted into the graduate program in Statistics as would any other graduate applicant.

**Can I count some classes simultaneously toward my undergraduate degree and graduate degree?**

Yes. Up to 12 credit hours of courses from the following list toward both their undergraduate and graduate degree requirements: STAT 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 530, 535, 540, 541, and all 700-or-higher level STAT courses.

**Do I need special permission to take 700-level courses as an undergraduate?**

Yes. There are a few university forms available from the graduate school that must be filled out.

**Can I get an assistantship that would fund me during the fifth year of the program?**

Yes, this is possible. Students admitted to the Department of Statistics Accelerated B.S./M.S. Education Plan will normally be eligible to apply for Instructional or Research Assistantship financial support after their eighth semester (fourth year), given completion of the requirements for the B.S. degree and satisfactory progress towards the M.S. degree. This assistantship would typically involve your working as a teaching assistant in the statistics department. It would include a substantial tuition waiver and a paid stipend. Note that assistantships are competitive and not guaranteed.

**Should I have completed certain courses before my fourth year in order to qualify for the accelerated program?**

Yes. You must complete STAT 511, STAT 512, STAT 515, and STAT 516 by the end of your third year in order to enter the accelerated program.

**Which graduate courses would I take during my fourth year?**

You should take STAT 704, STAT 705, STAT 712, and STAT 713 during your fourth year.

**When would I take the M.S. program's qualifying exam?**

You would take this at the end of your fourth year.