

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2016

Applied engineering statistics 780 (BES 780)

Qualification	Postgraduate
Faculty	Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology
Module credits	16.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	24 contact hours
Language of tuition	English
Academic organisation	Industrial and Systems Eng
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

This module presents an applied approach to solve real-world engineering problems. The premise of the course is that data analysis, and thus, applied statistics, is an inseparable part of conducting research and solving engineering problems. The module presents the elements of different types of statistical studies as they relate to different industrial settings. The aim of the module is to promote inductive reasoning through the gathering, analysing and interpreting of diverse types of observational data. The outcome of the module is an engineer equipped to select and apply statistical methods appropriate to an industrial setting.

The course covers the following topics:

- Contextualisation: Different types of industrial processes and research settings, related types of statistical studies and a framework for understanding and applying statistics
- Principles of probabilistic and rational data gathering
- The use of common and specialised probability distributions (such as the Gamma, Exponential and Weibull distributions) in solving real-life problems, conducting scientific research and analysing stochastic and deterministic processes
- Data transformations: When and how to transform data
- Bridging the gap between technology and statistical analysis: The use of EXCEL in resolving basic and advanced statistical problems

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