
University of Pretoria Yearbook 2016

MSc Biostatistics (10253110)

Duration of study 2 years

Admission requirements

Subject to the stipulations of the General Regulations, a four-year bachelor's degree is required or an honours degree or in the case of a three-year bachelor's degree also applicable practical (work) experience as prescribed by the University plus any other additional work deemed necessary by the head of department: With the proviso that the head of department will have the discretion to decide whether the prerequisite qualification or the qualification plus work experience would be acceptable for admission to the proposed field of study.

In the case of the field of study Biostatistics, an applicable honours degree is required, with Statistics at honours level.

Additional requirements

All MSc students must register for, and attend (TNM 800) Applied research methodology 800 satisfactorily. (Exemption may be granted if the module has already been passed for the BScHons degree.) Also consult General Regulations.

Other programme-specific information

Please note: The choice of elective modules has to be approved by the supervisor.

Subject to the stipulations of the General Regulations, the Chairperson of the School may, in consultation with the head of department, approve a fixed limited extension of the period on the grounds of extraordinary circumstances.

Examinations and pass requirements

- i. The minimum pass mark for a module is 50%.
- ii. The prescribed modules must be passed independently of each other.
- iii. Second examinations in the modules are arranged by the head of department, within a period of time specified by him or her.
- iv. No second examinations will be granted in modules in which less than 40% has been obtained. Instead, the module must be repeated in its entirety.
- v. Only with the approval of the Chairperson of the School, on the recommendation of the head of department, will a student be allowed to continue his or her studies after having failed two modules (or the same module twice).

Research information

Research protocol

After registration, a student is required to submit a complete research protocol regarding the proposed dissertation to the Academic Advisory Committee and if necessary, also to the Ethics Committee for approval.

Dissertation

A dissertation on an approved research project must be passed in addition to the coursework. The stipulations of the General Regulations regarding the preparation and submission, the technical editing and the résumé of the dissertation apply.

A systematic literature review (Cochrane type) on an approved subject, which is undertaken in such a manner that bias is minimised, may be presented as an alternative to the dissertation for awarding the MSc degree, provided that the module CLI 870 Principles of clinical epidemiology has been successfully completed. It requires, inter alia, a research protocol with clearly formulated objectives and methods. Inclusion and exclusion methods for the study must be determined. Where applicable, the data must be summarised (meta analysis), with applicable statistical methods.

Pass with distinction

The average mark of the modules, weighted in respect of the number of credits acquired for each individual module, will be the final mark (%) of the coursework.

The degree is conferred with distinction on a student who obtains an average mark of at least 75% in the coursework, as well as a final mark of at least 75% for the dissertation.



Curriculum: Year 1

Core modules

Individual study in public health 872 (ACM 872) - Credits: 20.00

Survival analysis 873 (BOS 873) - Credits: 5.00

Epidemiology 2 870 (EPM 870) - Credits: 5.00

Conducting surveys 873 (EPM 873) - Credits: 10.00

Monitoring and evaluation 873 (HME 873) - Credits: 15.00

Scientific writing 871 (HMS 871) - Credits: 5.00

Learning in public health 870 (PHM 870) - Credits: 5.00

Applied research methodology 800 (TNM 800) - Credits: 5.00

Elective modules

Principles: Chronic disease epidemiology 870 (CDE 870) - Credits: 5.00

Principles of clinical epidemiology 870 (CLI 870) - Credits: 10.00

Evidence-based medicine 871 (CLI 871) - Credits: 12.00

Principles of demography 870 (DEG 870) - Credits: 5.00

Disease surveillance 874 (EPM 874) - Credits: 5.00

Curriculum: Final year

Core modules

Individual study in public health 872 (ACM 872) - Credits: 20.00
Survival analysis 873 (BOS 873) - Credits: 5.00
Epidemiology 2 870 (EPM 870) - Credits: 5.00
Conducting surveys 873 (EPM 873) - Credits: 10.00
Monitoring and evaluation 873 (HME 873) - Credits: 15.00
Scientific writing 871 (HMS 871) - Credits: 5.00
Dissertation: Quantitative health legislation 890 (KGW 890) - Credits: 240.00
Learning in public health 870 (PHM 870) - Credits: 5.00
Applied research methodology 800 (TNM 800) - Credits: 5.00

Elective modules

Principles of clinical epidemiology 870 (CLI 870) - Credits: 10.00
Evidence-based medicine 871 (CLI 871) - Credits: 12.00

The information published here is subject to change and may be amended after the publication of this information. The [General Regulations \(G Regulations\)](#) apply to all faculties of the University of Pretoria. It is expected of students to familiarise themselves well with these regulations as well as with the information contained in the [General Rules](#) section. Ignorance concerning these regulations and rules will not be accepted as an excuse for any transgression.