

## **Recommendations for master's degree programs in statistics and biostatistics**

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A workgroup of the American Statistical Association recently completed a report that provided recommendations for master's degree programs in statistics and biostatistics that are responsive to the needs of stakeholders who employ such graduates. A summary of a survey of recent Master's graduates and a separate survey of employers of Master's graduates will be presented. The following topics will be addressed: background and description of the study process; recent Graduates responses; employer responses; and learning outcomes suggested by this process. These outcomes included: 1) a solid foundation in statistical theory and methods; 2) Programming skills; 3) Communication skills; 4) Collaboration, teamwork, and leadership development should be part of graduate education; 5) encounter non-routine, real problems throughout their graduate education. 6) internships, co-ops or other significant immersive work experiences; and 7) periodically survey recent graduates and employers to evaluate the success of programs.

Key Words: Programming, Communication, Non-routine problems, Internships