

**From:** [Neff, Jennifer](#)  
**To:** [Kaizar, Elly](#); [Xu, Xinyi](#)  
**Cc:** [Hamilton, Ian](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#); [Steele, Rachel](#); [Hilty, Michael](#)  
**Subject:** Revision to the Statistics PhD, Statistics MS, and Biostatistics PhD  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 12:03:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good afternoon,

On Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, the Natural and Mathematical Sciences Subcommittee of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed proposals to revise the Statistics PhD, Statistics MS, and Biostatistics PhD. Please find below the Subcommittee's feedback for these proposals.

- Statistics PhD – approved with three recommendations and two contingencies.
  - **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the department retitle the MS exam, perhaps describing it as an exam similar in nature to an MS exam without using that title, so that the Graduate School's master's examination rules do not prevent the department from enacting the exam as spelled out in the proposal. See section 6.2 of the Graduate School handbook <https://gradsch.osu.edu/all/graduate-school-handbook-gsh#section6.2>.
  - **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the department submit a request in curriculum.osu.edu to withdraw the course STAT 7303, as this course is no longer offered per the new requirements for the program and currently there are two courses on the books (STAT 7303 and 7302) with the same title. [Proposal pg. 4]
  - *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends referring to freshman and sophomore status as 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year. [Proposal pgs. 5-6]
  - *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the department reach out to the Graduate School concerning the policies surrounding the scheduling of placement exams prior to the start of the semester/student arrival and how this might impact students (e.g., finances, living arrangements, visa status). In the scenario that the exam cannot be scheduled prior to the start of the semester, the Subcommittee notes that the exam can likely be done in the first two days of the semester without impeding students' course enrollment. [Proposal pgs. 5-6]
  - *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the department include the timing of the exams (e.g., 2<sup>nd</sup> year spring semester or following year 2) on the sample tracks in the proposal. [Proposal pgs. 8-9]
- Statistics MS – the Subcommittee declined to vote on the proposal at this time and asks that a revision of the proposal be submitted via email to Bernadette Vankeerbergen addressing the following items.
  - The Subcommittee asks the department to verify the wording in the proposal regarding the MS non-thesis as a steppingstone to the PhD program. The current wording gives the impression that the department is excluding MS thesis students from the PhD. If the department does not mean to imply this, the Subcommittee advises them to open the statement up by saying that the MS program can be a steppingstone to the PhD or to include the means by which MS thesis students can qualify for the program (if the requirements for them are meant to be different from the non-thesis students).

[Proposal pg. 6]

- The Subcommittee would like the department to describe how, if at all, they are working with the Graduate School to address the conflict of the timing of the MS exam and student enrollment requirements given that Spring semester ends in April and the exam is in May.
- The Subcommittee is concerned that the exam is not in concurrence with the Graduate School's definition of a master's exam and asks if the Graduate School has approved the details of the MS exam for the department. See section 6.2 of the Graduate School handbook <https://gradsch.osu.edu/all/graduate-school-handbook-gsh#section6.2>.
- Biostatistics PhD – approved with one contingency.
  - **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the department include courses PUBHEPI 6410 and 6010 in the sample program since they are required courses for the program. The Subcommittee notes that this was likely a simple oversight, but it makes the sample program appear incomplete.

As a reminder, **contingencies** (in bold above) must be addressed and resubmitted via email to Bernadette Vankeerbergen. *Recommendations* (in italics above) should be implemented when the changes to the program go into effect.

Should you have any questions about the feedback, please feel free to contact Ian Hamilton (cc'd here), faculty Chair of the NMS Subcommittee, or me.

Best,  
Jennifer



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Jennifer Neff**

Curriculum and Assessment Assistant

**The Ohio State University**

College of Arts and Sciences

ASC Curriculum and Assessment Services

306A Dulles Hall, 230 Annie and John Glenn Ave, Columbus, OH 43210

614-292-3901 / [ascas.osu.edu](http://ascas.osu.edu)

Pronouns: she/her/hers