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Welcome

Welcome to the Statistics Department! This handbook provides information to help you become familiar with our procedures and requirements. If you have questions, feel free to ask.

Advisors

New students will be assigned a provisional advisor during the orientation period prior to the first week of classes. The student will consult with his or her advisor to prepare a schedule of classes for the first semester and outline a provisional program of study. Within three semesters of study for M.S. students, (no later than the beginning of the third semester is strongly advisable) or within two semesters of passing the qualifying exam for Ph.D. students, the student should select a major professor (the semester in which the candidate passes the qualifying exam is counted as semester number one, and summers do not count toward the time limit). The major professor will serve as the student's permanent advisor, will help the student finalize a program of study, and will direct the student's research work.

After the major professor has been selected, an advisory committee will be formed in consultation with the major professor. The committee will be responsible for monitoring the progress of the student.

Faculty

Our faculty has a broad range of interests in statistical theory and applications. The regular faculty, their degree-granting institutions and some of their research specialties are listed below.

- **Nora Bello** (Michigan State): Linear Mixed Models, Hierarchical Bayesian Models, Design of Experiments, Statistical Consulting
- **Juan Du** (Michigan State): Asymptotic and Computational Methods in Spatial Statistics
- **Suzanne Dubnicka** (Penn State): Nonparametric Statistics, Bayesian Statistics
- **Gary Gadbury** (Colorado State), Department Head: High Dimensional Data Analysis, Causal Inference, Biostatistics
- **Wei-Wen Hsu** (Michigan State): Two-component Mixture Models, Hypothesis Testing, Empirical Processes, Longitudinal and Correlated Data Analysis
- **Abigail Jager** (University of Chicago): Causal Inference, Likelihood Methods
- **Karen Keating** (Kansas State): Nonparametric Methods, High Dimensional Data, Biostatistics
- **Leigh Murray** (Virginia Tech): Linear Models, Design of Experiments, Statistical Consulting
- **James Neill** (Kansas State): Linear and Nonlinear Models, Model Adequacy Tests
- **Paul Nelson** (Rutgers): Survival Analysis, Stochastic Processes, Estimating Functions
- **Perla Reyes** (Wisconsin): Spatial-temporal Statistics, Bayesian Nonparametric Methods, Model Selection, Complex Networks
- **Pallavi Sawant** (Auburn): Robust Statistics, Dimension Reduction, Functional Data Analysis
- Weixing Song (Michigan State): Nonparametric Smoothing, Errors-in-Variables Models, Categorized Data Analysis
- Christopher Vahl (Kansas State): Design and Analysis of Experiments, Mixed Models, Sampling of Finite Populations, Statistical Consulting
- Haiyan Wang (Penn State): Nonparametrics, Longitudinal Data Analysis, Analysis of Designs with Large Numbers of Levels, Linear Models

Requirements

M.S. Degree
Two master’s degree options are available: the master’s report and the non-report.

- For the master’s report option, the student must take 30 hours of course work and write a report for 2 additional hours of credit.

- For the non-report option, the student must take 36 hours of course work and pass a comprehensive exam (see below).

The master’s report option is recommended for all students, especially those for whom the master’s degree will be the terminal degree.

In either case, the course work must include STAT 713, STAT 770, STAT 771, STAT 860, STAT 720, and at least one credit of STAT 945.

Master’s students wishing to continue for the Ph.D. must apply for admission to that program. Students should meet with the Department Head regarding available funding.

M.S. Exam
Master’s students in the non-report option must pass the M.S. Exam which will be administered in January. The M.S. Exam will consist of two 4-hour exams, one covering applied statistics and one covering statistical theory. The topics for the applied statistics exam will be selected from STAT 713 and 720. Topics for the statistical theory exam will be selected from STAT 770 and 771. The MS committee will recommend a pass/fail for each examinee. This recommendation will be presented to the faculty for a vote. M.S. candidates who fail the M.S. Exam may elect to write a report. Students admitted to the Ph.D. program in statistics may, with approval of their supervisory committee, use the Ph.D. Qualifying Exam to satisfy the exam requirement of the M.S. non-report option. A pass at the Ph.D. level will be interpreted as a pass at the M.S. level. A fail on the Ph.D. Qualifying Exam may be considered an M.S. pass at the discretion of the faculty. Ph.D. students who are unable to earn at least an M.S. pass in two attempts of the Ph.D. Qualifying Exam may elect to write a report.

Ph.D. Degree
Students are required to have 90 hours of course credits. Up to thirty hours from a Master's program may be applied toward the 90 hours and 30 of the hours must be research. The remaining 30 hours are to be selected primarily from the courses offered by the Department.

All Doctoral students are required to include STAT 842, 843, 860, 861, and at least 8 credit hours of 900 level Statistics classes (selected from 903, 904, 905, 907, 940, 941 and 950) in their program of study. In addition, all are expected to have a background in mathematics at least at the level of advanced calculus. Students who do not have this background upon entering the program may include Advanced Calculus I and II in their program of study.

**Ph.D. Qualifying Exam**

Students interested in pursuing the Ph.D. are required to first pass a departmental Qualifying Exam. Subsequently, students pursuing the Ph.D. must pass the doctoral preliminary examination (see below) in order to be approved for degree candidacy by the Graduate School.

The Qualifying Exam consists of three parts: applied statistics, mathematical statistics and linear models. The exam will be given once a year, in January. Students may take the exam as early as desired. The courses listed below, as based on the department’s offerings as of fall 2013, are only intended to indicate the scope of the material covered. They are not required as prerequisite to taking the exam. Mathematical Statistics: Stat 842, 843; Linear Models: Stat 860, 861; Applied Statistics: Stat 720, 870. Students taking the Ph.D. qualifier are required to pass two of the three subject area exams. Students may take all three exams. Each of the three exam subcommittees will circulate to eligible students additional information regarding each exam during the summer semester prior to the January when the exams are given.

All aspiring Ph.D. candidates who will have taken Stat 860, 861, 720, 870, 842 and 843, or their equivalents, by the end of a fall semester are eligible and required to take the exam in the following January. Except for excused personal emergencies, eligible students who choose not to take the exam will be assigned a ‘failure’ for the exam. Otherwise eligible students who are on probation during the semester in which the exam is given will not be permitted to take it. No grade will be recorded for them. Students may request permission from their advisor to take the exam before they will have taken all of the courses listed above or their equivalents.

For each aspiring Ph.D. candidate the provisional program of study will include a reasonable timeline to take the exam and will include a tentative list of which parts of the exam the student plans to take. In general, a student with an M.S. in Statistics who starts Ph.D. course work in the department during the fall semester will take the exam no later than after their first three semesters in the program. A student with an M.S. in Statistics who starts Ph.D. course work in the department during the spring semester will take the exam no later than the January following their first four semesters in the program. Students admitted to pursue the Ph.D. but without the M.S. in Statistics should plan to take the exam no later than the January following their first five semesters in the program. Waivers of this requirement may be granted but only in exceptional cases. Further, students who fail to take the exam on schedule may lose funding as well as possibly receiving a failure on the exam, as indicated above.

Students who fail the exam may be granted a second chance when the exam is given again, during the following January. However, a second opportunity is not automatic and approval of such is based upon recommendation by the faculty.
Preliminary Exam

Dissertation Proposal
The doctoral preliminary examination will consist of a substantial thesis proposal. It will be judged on how well the candidate has located a problem, searched the literature, read relevant material, and sufficiently refined the problem so that the candidate has a reasonable chance of writing an acceptable dissertation. The proposal will be presented to the candidate's supervisory committee in written form, and to the department and the supervisory committee in a public seminar. A candidate may take the preliminary examination at most twice. If the candidate fails the preliminary examination a second time, he or she will be dismissed from the Statistics graduate program.

The candidate must provide a complete written copy of the proposal to each member of the candidate's supervisory committee two full weeks before the anticipated date of the public presentation. At the same time, the candidate must provide a short (less than one page) summary or abstract to all faculty in the Department of Statistics, and arrange for a seminar. The candidate will provide faculty not on the supervisory committee a copy of the complete proposal at their request.

Public Seminar
The candidate will present the public seminar at a date mutually agreed upon by the candidate, the candidate's supervisory committee, and the department head. The candidate must notify the Graduate School one month before the scheduled date. At the conclusion of the presentation, there will be a time for general questions from the audience. After the general questioning period, the general audience will be dismissed, and a second questioning period will begin with the candidate's supervisory committee and other interested Department of Statistics faculty members in attendance. The candidate should be prepared to answer questions that address specific points in the proposal, courses on the candidate's program of study, and general statistical knowledge. See page 18 for scheduling a seminar.

Evaluation of the Presentation
At the conclusion of the second questioning period, the candidate will be asked to leave the room, and any Department of Statistics faculty members still in attendance may stay to advise the candidate's supervisory committee as to the candidate's ability to pursue Ph.D. work. After providing advice, those who are not members of the candidate's supervisory committee will be excused. The candidate's supervisory committee will then discuss and vote on the candidate's performance, with a three fourths majority of favorable votes needed to pass the preliminary exam.

Pass-Fail Options for First Attempt
The supervisory committee may decide to do one of the following after the first preliminary examination.
1. **Unconditional Pass.** If at least three fourths of the members of the supervisory committee vote to pass the candidate, the ballot will be signed indicating pass and returned to the Graduate School.

2. **Conditional Pass.** With the approval of at least three fourths of the supervisory committee, the candidate may be granted a conditional pass. A conditional pass is granted when the written proposal, oral presentation, or subsequent questioning show deficiencies that are not deemed severe enough for failure but are of sufficient concern to deny an unconditional pass. In this event, the supervisory committee will specify what is required of the candidate to remove the deficiencies and the time period allotted to the candidate to remove the deficiencies. The ballot will be held and not returned to the Graduate School until the candidate has removed the deficiencies or until the end of the time period allotted for removal of the deficiencies, whichever comes first. The candidate may be asked to revise the proposal, study additional material, take a written exam, make an oral presentation or any combination of the above in order to clear up the deficiencies. If another oral is required, it will be presented to the supervisory committee and other interested Statistics faculty. Additional oral presentations required by the supervisory committee will not be public seminars. When the deficiencies have been removed or when the allotted time for removal of the deficiencies has expired, whichever comes first, the candidate's supervisory committee will meet to vote either to pass or fail the candidate. The candidate will be judged to have passed the preliminary examination if at least three-fourths of the members of the supervisory committee vote to pass the candidate. Otherwise the candidate will be judged to have failed the first attempt at the preliminary examination. At this point, the ballot will be signed indicating either pass or fail and returned to the Graduate School.

3. **Failure.** A candidate who fails to receive an unconditional pass and is not granted a conditional pass will be judged to have failed the first attempt at the preliminary examination. The ballot will be signed indicating failure and returned to the Graduate School.

**Pass-Fail Options for Second Attempt**

In case of failure of the first preliminary examination, the supervisory committee may approve a second examination with no more than one dissenting vote. A second examination can be taken no sooner than three months following the initial failure. The candidate's supervisory committee will specify the format of the second attempt. If the first proposal is inadequate, the candidate may be asked to revise and present the revision to the supervisory committee and other interested Statistics faculty. If the candidate shows lack of knowledge in some key area related to the proposed research, the candidate may be asked to study the material and take a written and/or oral examination on the deficient area. If the supervisory committee decides that the topic will not likely lead to a dissertation in a reasonable amount of time, a new problem may be provided and a new proposal written with an oral presentation to the supervisory committee and other interested Statistics faculty. Additional oral presentations required by the supervisory committee will not be public seminars.

The supervisory committee may decide to do one of the following after the second preliminary examination.

Page 5
1. **Unconditional Pass.** If at least three fourths of the members of the supervisory committee vote to pass the candidate, the ballot will be signed indicating pass and returned to the Graduate School.

2. **Conditional Pass.** With the approval of at least three fourths of the supervisory committee, the candidate may be granted a conditional pass. A conditional pass is granted when the candidate's second attempt shows deficiencies that are not deemed severe enough for failure but are of sufficient concern to deny an unconditional pass. In this event, the supervisory committee will specify what is required of the candidate to remove the deficiencies and the time period allotted to the candidate to remove the deficiencies. The ballot will be held and not returned to the Graduate School until the candidate has removed the deficiencies or until the end of the time period allotted for removal of the deficiencies, whichever comes first. When the deficiencies have been removed or when the allotted time for removal of the deficiencies has expired, whichever comes first, the candidate's supervisory committee will meet to vote either to pass or fail the candidate. The candidate will be judged to have passed the preliminary examination if at least three fourths of the members of the supervisory committee vote to pass the candidate. Otherwise the candidate will be judged to have failed the second attempt at the preliminary examination. At this point, the ballot will be signed indicating either pass or fail and returned to the Graduate School. Failure of the second attempt will result in the candidate being dropped from the Ph.D. program in Statistics.

3. **Failure.** A candidate who fails to receive an unconditional pass and is not granted a conditional pass will be judged to have failed the second attempt at the preliminary examination. The ballot will be signed indicating failure and returned to the Graduate School. Failure of the second attempt will result in the candidate being dropped from the Ph.D. program in Statistics.

**Timetable for Taking the Preliminary Examination**

The preliminary examination must be taken within five semesters of passing the departmental qualifying examination. The semester in which the candidate passes the qualifying exam is counted as semester number one, and summers do not count toward the time limit. After passing the qualifying examination, the candidate should start preparing for the preliminary examination as soon as the supervisory committee determines that the candidate is ready.

**Final Examinations for M.S. and Ph.D. Degrees**

The responsibilities regarding scheduling and announcement of the final examination for M.S. and Ph.D. students are available in the Graduate Handbook as published by the Graduate School ([www.k-state.edu/grad/graduate_handbook](http://www.k-state.edu/grad/graduate_handbook)).

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**Expectations**
A thorough understanding of statistical theory and experience in applying statistical methods are keys to any statistician's success. Students are expected to strive for good grades in all courses. All students must take the required courses indicated previously and file a program of study in concordance with the guidelines given in the Graduate Handbook as published by the Graduate School. In particular, a final program of study should be filed once the major professor has been selected. More generally, graduate students should become familiar with the policies and degree requirements in the Graduate Handbook.

Permission to audit a class must be obtained from the instructor at the beginning of the semester before classes start. This policy holds for MS and Ph.D. level classes.

The Department does a tremendous amount of consulting work both for researchers and students on campus and for individuals and agencies off campus. At some point in the student's stay at Kansas State, the student should get involved in one or more consulting projects. Projects vary in length of time and sophistication of methods needed to complete them. Students should contact the department head to find out what is available. Up to 2 hours credit may be earned for consulting by registering for STAT 945. Registration for STAT 945 requires the approval of the instructor. When a student commits to a project, it is expected that the work will be carried to completion. A good job on a consulting project will be a satisfying and valuable experience.

The Department has an excellent reputation for turning out students who know how to solve real-world problems. The consulting experience is a critical component in that process. Just one word of caution - students should budget their time so that both the consulting project and other departmental duties get done, including coursework and teaching. Consulting experience is not a substitute for good grades. Rather, it is a way to put into practice what one is learning in the classroom.

The department hosts many seminars every semester. Our speakers include people from across the country as well as our own faculty and graduate students. Seminars provide the opportunity to learn about current research in statistics, interesting consulting experiences and applications of statistics, new teaching ideas, job opportunities and career possibilities. All graduate students are expected to attend the weekly seminars. In addition, opportunities to participate in journal club activities and graduate student seminar presentations will be forthcoming.

We expect students to make adequate progress in the program. In most cases, two years is adequate to complete the M.S. degree, and four years beyond the M.S. degree is adequate to complete the Ph.D. degree. To fulfill the obligation that students pursue studies full-time, graduate assistants must be enrolled for a minimum of 6 hours of credit during fall and spring terms. International students not on graduate assistant support must be enrolled for a minimum of 9 hours of credit. The Graduate School does not require that graduate students be enrolled during the summer. Student progress will be reviewed by the department’s Graduate Program Committee each year. Students who are being supported by the department must make adequate progress to be considered for continuing support.
## Classes Offered

The pattern below repeats every two years starting with even numbered years. Parentheses denote courses that are optionally scheduled.

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Financial Support

The Department offers two types of financial support: the teaching assistantship and the research assistantship.

The great majority of the positions are teaching assistantships. Our teaching assistants will generally have complete responsibility for an introductory class or leadership responsibility for a studio classroom. Therefore, it is important for us to have people who are comfortable in front of a classroom. Students whose native language is not English are required to pass the SPEAK exam or have a 22 or higher score on the speaking portion of the IBT to be considered for a teaching assistantship. This is a University requirement which cannot be waived by the Department.

We have a small number of full or part-time research assistantships. The number varies from semester to semester. The student who is appointed to a research assistantship will be involved in one or more major consulting or research projects. We usually choose the more experienced students for this type of appointment. Demonstrated ability and willingness to work hard are the two most important criteria for selecting research assistants.

Normal appointments for both research and teaching assistantships are 5/10 time which presumes 20 hours of effort per week. Students with research and/or teaching assistantships should not plan on working at other jobs simultaneously, and should do this only after clearing it with the department head and their advisor.

We try to make summer support available to those who have served as teaching assistants or research assistants during the academic year. Some appointments require classroom teaching and others require assisting faculty members with their teaching and research. We have also been able to arrange a few internships with various industries. Unfortunately, summer support cannot be guaranteed nor can an amount be guaranteed.

The Department also has a few scholarships available for current students for the upcoming semesters. Announcements for applications and deadlines are sent out early in the spring semester. Selections are made by a committee of faculty members. Decisions are based on application materials submitted by the student, grades and activity within the Department and/or University, such as seminar attendance, assisting at the annual Conference on Applied Statistics, working with the Stat Club or volunteer work in the community. Winners are notified by letter within a couple of weeks after the deadline.
Academic Progress and Denial of Financial Support

The departmental Graduate Program committee has developed a policy to help guide students through the Graduate Program in a timely and beneficial manner. The policy has been discussed and approved by the faculty. The policy items are listed below.

These items are consistent with the Graduate Handbook which was developed by the Graduate Faculty at K-State (www.k-state.edu/grad/graduate_handbook). All graduate students at K-State are subject to the policies therein. In particular, note Part G in Chapters 2 and 3.

As indicated in the current Statistics Department Handbook, in most cases, two years is considered adequate to complete the M.S. degree and four years beyond the M.S. degree is adequate to complete the Ph.D. degree.

1. A student who is on academic probation for more than one semester (consecutively or not) will be denied financial support from the department.

2. A M.S. student must select a major professor within three semesters (excluding the summer) of study. Failure to do so will result in loss of financial support.

3. A Ph.D. student must select a major professor and form a committee within two semesters (excluding the summer) of passing the qualifying exam. Failure to do so will result in loss of financial support.

4. A Ph.D. student must take the preliminary examination within five semesters (excluding summers) of passing the qualifying exam. Failure to do so will result in the loss of financial support.

5. The Graduate Program committee will make a list of students every semester who it determines are not making satisfactory progress towards completion of a degree. Note that this includes students who are not on academic probation. It also includes students who have completed research for a degree and choose not to defend. Financial support for such students will be terminated at the end of the semester. In addition, students who fail to make satisfactory progress as agreed upon by the major professor and/or supervisory committee will not only lose departmental support but will be recommended for dismissal from the Graduate School. Finally, at the discretion of the major professor and/or supervisory committee, if sufficient progress is not being made on a degree research topic then the student should plan to relinquish the research topic for degree purposes.

6. A student may appeal a denial of financial support to the Graduate Program committee.
Stat Lab

The Stat Lab (room 10) is for the use of Statistics majors (graduates and undergraduates), faculty, and consulting clients. There are PCs, a laser printer, and smart board for public use. If you are new at using this equipment, get help. This is your lab. The fewer dollars we have to spend on repairs, the more dollars we have available for other things.

If you have problems with your document not printing, please do not repeatedly hit the Print button. If you inadvertently hit it, remove all jobs from the print queue. Check to see if all jobs have been deleted before reporting that the printer is not working. Do not use the printer to make copies.

It is expected that the users of the Stat Lab will keep it clean. The doors to the Stat Lab lock automatically. Please be sure the door is closed when you leave the lab, day or night. Please keep the AC on and the door closed during the hot summer. Access to room 10 is by use of a key card. These cards are issued by the department. Please contact Jackie Anders if you have not yet been issued a card.

There is also a public computing lab in Room 1 that is open 24 hours a day. It has a wide variety of software available such as Excel, MS Word, Minitab, etc. It is available for your use, but it also has many users who are not statistics students.

Reports, Theses, Dissertations, Resumes
These documents should be entered using MS Word, or Latex. The student is required to give printed copies of his/her dissertation or report to the major professor and all committee members at his/her own expense. Do not print multiple copies on the printer in room 10. Print one original, and then take that original to a copy center. This is not a departmental expense.

Consulting
The Department provides consulting services to the university through K-State Research and Extension. You may refer prospective clients to one of the consulting faculty: Drs. Bello, Murray, and Vahl, all of whom have appointments for which a portion of the duties are assigned as consulting. You may at times have the opportunity to do consulting work for student or faculty clients. We urge you to visit with one of the consulting faculty before undertaking a project. This will help insure that your consulting advice is correct.
Guidelines for Teaching Assistants

Characteristics of General Education Courses
Our introductory courses have been approved for General Education. The main goals of General Education are to facilitate the idea of active learning in the classroom, the experiential context, and the opportunity to make connections. We have revised our courses with the University Guidelines for General Education in mind. In addition to the typical lecture-textbook format, we will add to the student’s experience by including ideas and activities that draw on the student’s personal background and experience. The coordinator will work with you each week to insure that General Education principles are included in your course.

Syllabus
Our syllabi for Stat 325, 340, 350 and 351 were designed in accordance with the general education principles. Copies of the 340, 350 and 351 syllabus may be obtained from office staff. Office staff can either make hard copies or send an electronic version to your email address. Please follow the syllabus as closely as you can. If you would like to modify the syllabus or are having problems following the syllabus, see the course coordinator.

Policy Sheet
You should prepare a sheet of class policies to hand out to students (along with the syllabus) on the first day of class. Your class policy sheet should include the following:

- A list of required and/or recommended materials that the student will need for your class.
- How to contact you.
- The grading procedure that will be used to evaluate student grades in this class.
- Policy for missed exams or late homework.
- Copy of University’s Undergraduate Honor Code

Your policy sheet is important. Be sure to carefully consider the contents. This sheet will help to establish clear expectations of the students and provide you with protection in case of a student conflict with regard to class procedures. Make sure that your policies are something you can stick with during the semester. Students tend to get frustrated when the requirements for the course change. Below are more complete descriptions of the things to include in your policy sheet.

Contact Information
Students need to know how to get in touch with you outside of class. Be sure to include your e-mail address on your policy sheet. E-mail is an easy way to communicate with your students once you get in the habit of checking it at least once daily. If you want, you can include your office phone number; however, remind students that if they cannot reach you by phone to send you an e-mail message. You must also include your office hours and help lab time. If your schedule is not set, simply put “To Be Announced” and then put the times on the board when you know your schedule.
Evaluating Students
Students are to be evaluated according to grading criteria in the syllabus, and as agreed to by the course coordinator. Students are very concerned about grades. Let the students know your grading scale at the beginning of the semester and stick to it. They want to be assured that they will be evaluated fairly.

Suggestions for a Grading Plan
If you are looking for a grading plan, here is one that would be acceptable.

Grades will be based on the following:
3 one-hour exams (according to the syllabus), 15% per exam.

A comprehensive final worth 25%. The final is required of everybody.

Homework including writing, computer, in-class activities, and quizzes: 30%. {Note: Attendance may also be considered as factor in the grade, at the instructor’s discretion.}

The low hour-exam score may be replaced by the percentage score obtained on the final if it will improve the student's grade.

Grades will be assigned according to the following percentages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90% to 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80% to 89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70% to 79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60% to 69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The ranges for determining letter grades are up to you. The ranges above are just suggestions. Your scale will depend on how strict or how generous you are with partial credit. While there are no quotas on the number of A's or F's that can be given in your class, most classes are neither exceptionally bad nor exceptionally good in terms of the capabilities of the students. Keep that in mind when giving partial credit and assigning grades.

Regardless of the grading plan that you use, it is important to allow students some way to redeem themselves if they obtain just one low hour exam or one low quiz score. Replacing a low grade with the final exam score and dropping a low quiz/homework score are ideas that have worked for others.

Make-up Exams or Late Homework
When establishing your policy for make-up exams or late homework consider the motto “tough but fair.” You want a policy tough enough that students will work hard to meet your deadlines but fair so that in a case where a student has a legitimate problem they can redeem themselves.

One policy for late homework that has worked well for others is: Late homework will be accepted (with a 10% penalty per day) only up to the time that the assignment has been graded.
and returned. Note this policy lets the students know that they can turn in late homework but there is a time limit and it helps you because grading late homework can be very time consuming.

Whether or not to allow make-up exams is a difficult thing to decide. Set the policy you feel most comfortable with. One possibility would be to let the missed exam be the one that is replaced by the final score. This will keep you from having to prepare a separate make-up exam. If you decide to allow make-up exams, you may want to include a clause in your statement such as: All make-up exams must be arranged in advance when possible. Verifiable documentation (e.g. note from a doctor) is required to make-up an exam.

**Exam Format**
You may want to include a brief statement about the format of your exams. For instance: *Exams will be closed-book, but students may bring one 8½” x 11” sheet of paper with formulas to the exam. Statistical tables will be provided as needed. Calculators may be used for computing numerical values.* However, if you are not sure what your policy will be about formula sheets, closed-book, etc. it is better to leave it out for the first semester you teach.

**University’s Undergraduate Honor Code**
Remind students that you can fail them if they cheat. You may want to include the KSU Honor Pledge: "On my honor, as a student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work." The pledge and other information about the Honor System are available at the web site: [www.ksu.edu/honor](http://www.ksu.edu/honor).

**Exam Questions**
Stat 340 and 351 instructors write their own exams and determine the grading scale. GTAs in their first year at KSU are required to submit a copy of each exam to the course supervisor for review. The exams must be submitted at least three days prior to giving the exam. This 3-day period is necessary in order to take care of any revisions/final editing of your exams.

Exam questions should be like the "average" homework problems with the addition of some general education questions. General education questions emphasize statistical concepts; these questions may be essays about statistical concepts or questions about projects and activities from class. The department has developed an exam pool that has model questions for both typical homework and non-traditional questions. Exams should represent the material covered in class.

Make sure your exams are readable and that questions are clearly and concisely stated. Always try to include the point values of the problems for the students' information. Word processors are available for your use. Most experienced students will be able to help you get started.

Take the exam yourself before giving it to the students. If it takes you more than 15 minutes to work it, it is probably too long. Try out your exam questions on your colleagues.

If you leave the exam with one of the staff, please let them know who will be taking the exam, when they will be coming to pick it up and how long they have to take the exam. If someone from Disability Student Support Services is picking up an exam for one of your students, make
Be sure that there is adequate information at the top of your exam. In addition to space for the student to insert his/her name, you should always include the course number (e.g., statistics 350), your name, the date (or at least the semester of the course; e.g.: Fall 2012 or October 2, 2012), and some indication of which exam this is (e.g., Exam 1).

**Dealing with Students**

Establishing clear procedures at the beginning of the class will set the right tone for the conduct of your class. Learning students' names and calling on them will help establish rapport. Practice the Golden Teaching Rule. Treat your students as you would like to be treated by your professors. You may wish to ask students to prepare a profile sheet for you which would include such information as major, previous math courses, hometown, age, special comments, etc.

Fortunately, you will seldom have discipline problems. The thing that upsets students the most is the feeling that they have been treated unfairly. See Dr. Jager or Dr. Gadbury if you run into a situation you have trouble handling.

Students who do poorly on the first or second exams generally will do poorly in the course. Talk to these students and find out what's going on. In most cases, it is best for such students to drop the course and try it again at some other time. Students will sometimes feel a sense of "disgrace" for doing poorly and will wish to continue in the course to "prove" themselves. Generally this strategy leads only to frustration and disappointment. It is usually better for the student to protect his or her grade point average by dropping.

Unfortunately, cheating sometimes occurs on exams. Some instructors will prepare two different, but similar, exams so that adjacent students will not have the same questions. Keeping students "spread-out" in the classroom may also help. Remind students that you can fail them if they cheat. If you have a problem with students cheating, check with Dr. Gadbury or other faculty to obtain advice on how to handle the situation. The Undergraduate Honor System (web site: [www.ksu.edu/honor](http://www.ksu.edu/honor)) is another source of information when dealing with academic dishonesty.

**GTA Meetings**

We encourage our GTAs to work together. Exchanging ideas will help improve the quality of our instruction. Attendance at the weekly GTA meetings is required. To be effective, the content of our courses must be very similar across sections. Working together will help achieve the consistency needed.

**Evaluations**

You are **required** to give your students the opportunity to evaluate you. Office staff will put evaluation forms in your mailbox the week before finals, or evaluations can be done electronically via K-State Online. The evaluations are primarily used for feedback so the individual instructor can make improvements in his or her teaching. However, the department reviews the evaluations. Additionally, we reserve the right to evaluate any GTA during the semester. This evaluation may include having the students evaluate the instructor and/or having a faculty member visit the classroom and observe the GTA in the performance of his/her duties.
Office Hours/Help Session
Instructors must **post** and **hold** regular office hours, at least two hours per week. At the beginning of each semester, you will receive a schedule to fill out and post on your office door. You should also return a copy to the Department office to keep on file. We also schedule help sessions in Room 4 of Dickens Hall. Undergrad students who need help with homework or statistical computing may come there. All graduate teaching assistants are required to spend at least one hour per week in the Help Session Room. Sign-up for help session times will take place during the first week of classes each semester. The Help Session Room will be open during the days when classes are in session. It will be closed at night, during vacation and during final exam periods. If for some reason you are unable to be in the lab during your scheduled time, you are responsible for finding a replacement.

Professional Conduct
Instructors are to conduct themselves as professionals. While we do not have a dress code, neat attire will help set the right tone for a class. It is important to establish yourself as the leader of the class and not just another one of the students.

The Department expects that instructors will meet their fall and spring classes for the full time (either 50 minutes or 75 minutes) scheduled. Your course coordinator or the department head must be notified any time you are unable to conduct class, attend help sessions, or office hours. They also need to be notified of all arrangements you have made to cover a class and class cancellation.

In the event that you are unable to conduct one of your assigned classes, help sessions, or office hours, you should make an effort to cover the class by making arrangements with another instructor. If this is not possible, you should contact your course coordinator or the department head giving sufficient time for them to make arrangements.

Permission must be obtained from Dr. Jager or Dr. Gadbury, before canceling any class. Being absent from your assigned class to take personal vacation will not be tolerated.

Questions
If you have questions on the material you are teaching, on classroom procedures, exams, or other matters related to your teaching efforts, see the course coordinator or feel free to call on any faculty member. We are here to help you.

Drop/Add Enrollment Policy
Drop/Add policies have changed dramatically with the installation of the new (iSIS) student information systems beginning in the fall of 2008.

Students now are moved automatically from the top of the wait list to the class roster when vacancies occur. They are sent an email to that effect when this occurs, and the remaining students on the wait list are moved up (order on the wait list is determined by the time the student puts himself/herself on the list).

GTA’s will not need to deal with this issue, henceforth.
You will still get an occasional student who begs to be admitted to the class. Tell them this decision is not in your hands. If the student appears to have an “extremely” compelling reason to be admitted to a full class, send them to the department head to plead the case.

**Office Procedures**

Below are some guidelines that have been prepared to help you understand our office procedures.

The department now has two student workers. If you need assistance, please see them first. If they are not able to help you; you will be directed to Jo or Jackie.

**Copy/Fax Machine Use**

Copy machines are available for departmental business. They are located in rooms 101 and 109. If you have departmental copies to be made, ask the student workers or office staff for instructions until you are familiar with them. Very large jobs should be coordinated with the student workers or departmental office staff. Please see the student worker if you need assistance with faxing documents.

**Office Equipment**

We have an electric stapler, paper cutter, 3-hole-punch, scotch tape, masking tape, etc. for your departmental use. You are welcome to use them, but do not remove them from the office.

**Office Supplies**

These are for departmental use only! Please be mindful that the Department is on a limited budget for office supplies. Do not waste valuable resources by misusing these supplies.

**Room 10** - if you need copy paper for the printer, please use the paper that is stored on the bottom of the metal book shelf. The student workers will replenish as needed.

**Notebooks, Data Projector and Overhead Projectors**

The department has three notebooks, two data projectors and one overhead projector available for use on a first come/first served reservation basis. If you would like to use or reserve them please see one of the student workers. Those who have made reservations will have priority over walk-ins. If you are teaching in Bluemont Hall, you can also reserve an overhead from their Media Center, which is located in Bluemont 16 (phone: 2-5926).

When returning the notebooks, please return them to the students workers and they will charge them for the next person using them. **If you are using the data projector, you must wait until the fan has stopped before turning off the projector or unplugging it.** Failure to follow this procedure can result in the lamp needing to be replaced.
Personal Mail
All personal mail must have a stamp on it and put in the “stamped” slot in the downstairs mailbox! Personal mail delivered to the department should be kept to a minimum due to limited university resources. Packages that arrive will be kept in the main office and you will be notified.

Departmental Journals and other Publications
The books and journals in D108 and past theses in D109 are there to be used as references. If you would like to use these materials, the sign-out sheet is located in D108. Once you have finished with the materials, please return them and cross out your name. Please do not keep things more than 2 weeks as others may want to use it.

Letters of Recommendation
Letters will be sent out only after you have provided office staff with pre-addressed stamped envelopes. It is your responsibility to get the envelopes to office staff. If you would like for all letters addressed to the same person to be sent in the same envelope, indicate this when you bring the envelopes. If you would like for them to be mailed in separate envelopes, provide the correct amount of self-addressed stamped envelopes. Today, many letters of recommendation are sent electronically. In this case, please work with your recommenders to decide how best to distribute letters electronically.

Questions about the Department, Campus or University Procedures
Office staff will do their best to answer any questions and give you any assistance they can. However, be advised that they have numerous other duties that they are also responsible for and the Department does not have the resources available to abuse their time or efforts. Please be considerate of this when making requests of them.

Room Reservations
If you would like to reserve a campus classroom for a special purpose (review session for an upcoming exam, etc.) at a time in which you do not have class scheduled, you must make a reservation with the university’s facilities department. Jackie is available to make room reservations for you. Please send her an email with the following information: your name, date, time (beginning and ending), building/room desired with at least one alternative location, number of people expected to attend and purpose of meeting (e.g., review session for exam).

Scheduling Seminars
The department holds several seminars each semester. Dickens 207 has been reserved weekly on Thursday afternoons at 4:00 to schedule seminars. Refreshments, normally supplied by the Stat Club, are served 30 minutes prior to the seminar in D108.

Seminars are sometimes given by our students. The procedure you need to follow is:

I. Coordinate with the seminar chair to select the time and date.
II. Contact Jackie to arrange a room if the seminar is not at the usual time and day.
III. Once the room is set, contact office staff at least a week in advance with the information for date, time, location, title and abstract. Office staff will post the announcement on the website, via email, and paper flyers.

IV. Outside speakers need to meet with Jackie so that necessary information for reimbursement of travel expenses can be obtained in a timely and convenient manner.

**Keys**
You are issued keys to an office (if you are a GTA), the outside doors, and a key card for access to the Stat Lab (Room 10). You are responsible for these keys/cards. If lost, you will need to pay for the replacements. The cost is $10/key. If you lock yourself out of your office, or accidentally leave your keys at home, the office personnel will be glad to let you into your office.

**Departmental Refrigerator, Microwave, Coffee Club**
The department has a refrigerator for your convenience in Room 10. You are expected to help keep it clean and remove items that belong to you before they spoil.