

Biostatistician (Biometrician)

■ Job Description

In the field of biostatistics, statistical and computer methods are developed and applied to problems in biology, epidemiology, medicine, and health policy. Biostatistics can also be applied to areas such as environmental study and agriculture. Biostatisticians play a crucial role in scientific research, working closely with physicians and other health scientists on the design, conduct, and analysis of research investigations. Through such collaboration, biostatisticians are key participants in improving public health.

■ Job Settings

Career opportunities for biostatisticians abound, enabling graduates to select from several interesting positions in a variety of locations. Graduates of the program in biostatistics hold academic positions in schools of public health, medicine, and statistics; work in the pharmaceutical and medical devices industries; and work in health agencies at the local, state, and national level.

■ Projected Need

Opportunities for individuals with specialized education or training in biostatistics should remain good as medical research and development of new health-related technologies continues to grow.

■ Salaries

Starting salaries for individuals with a master's degree range from about \$16.82 to \$31.25 per hour. With a doctoral degree, beginning salaries range from \$26.44 to \$40.86 per hour. Individuals with bachelor's degrees are generally limited to working in government positions; private corporations tend to hire those with master's or doctoral degrees.

■ Related Careers

Medical record administration is an alternative field that involves working with medical data, but with different goals in mind. Psychologists are often involved in research, as are epidemiologists.

■ Differences in Training

Many universities and colleges offer master's and doctoral programs in biostatistics. Often these programs

are offered through the school of public health. This is because the field of study concentrates on medicine and disease. In addition, some schools offer graduate-level certificate programs. These are usually for people who already have a graduate degree in a related field.

■ Related Educational Programs

The programs of study listed below are the recommended areas of study to pursue for this occupation. Clicking on these will lead to files that show in-state and national schools that offer these programs.

The following link(s) will take you to CIS for more information. CIS requires an ID and password that can be obtained at <http://cis.ilworkinfo.com/loginhelp/login.asp>

[Biometrics and Biostatistics Statistics](#)

■ Resources

International Biometric Society
1444 I Street NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005-2210
Phone: 202.712.9049
E-mail: ibs@bostromdc.com
<http://www.tibs.org>

American Statistical Association
1429 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-3415
Phone: 888.231.3473
E-mail: asainfo@amstat.org
<http://www.amstat.org/careers/copss/biostatistics.html>

The association makes available various scholarships and fellowships to graduate and doctoral students of statistics.