

Key Things to Know for your Degree in Biostatistics

2026 – 2027

1. Computing requirement:

- a. For full-time students, this requirement **must be fulfilled in the first year** of the degree program. (Part-time students should discuss this with their academic advisor.)
- b. [GPH-GU 2182 Statistical Programming in R](#) OR [GPH-GU 2286 Introduction to Data Management and Statistical Computing](#)
 - i. For those enrolled prior to Fall 2024, GPH-GU 2182 was previously offered as the combination of GPH-GU 2183 and 2184.
 - ii. If you have taken the equivalent of 2182, you may potentially waive the requirement through our [waiver exam process](#) (46 credits are still required to graduate, but the credits that would have gone toward this requirement may now be used instead for an elective).
 - iii. **IMPORTANT:** GPH-GU 2182 is required for the following courses:
 1. [GPH-GU 2338](#) Machine Learning in Public Health (*optional elective, required for students completing the Certificate in Public Health Data Science*) (prerequisite)
 2. [GPH-GU 2363](#) Causal Inference: Design and Analysis (*one of four options for fulfilling an MS “selective” requirement, can otherwise be taken as an elective*) (co-requisite – both must be taken during or prior to same semester)
 3. [GPH-GU 2372](#) Applied Bayesian Analysis (*optional elective*) (prerequisite)
 4. [GPH-GU 2233](#) Data, AI, and The People's Health (*optional elective*) (prerequisite)
 5. [GPH-GU 2188](#) Introduction to Python Programming
- c. If you take 2286, you may not take [GPH-GU 2022 SAS for Beginners: Data Management and Exploration](#) for elective credit, due to overlap in SAS content (2286 will cover SAS to the same degree)
- d. GPH-GU 2024 R programming for Beginners may not be counted as an elective for MPH or MS students

2. Notes on certain Required courses:

- a. You may take Regression 1 [2353](#) in the Fall, concurrently with Intro Biostatistics [2995](#), if you have taken a prior Statistics or Biostatistics course. To request approval for this, [please fill out this form](#).
- b. (MS) You may take Research Methods ([2361](#)) in the Fall, concurrently with Intro Epi [2106](#).

3. Selectives:

- a. Some of our course requirements are not single, specific courses, but rather consist of a choice between two or more courses, among which you are only required to take one course (or set of courses) to fulfill the requirement.
- b. Below are the course options for all four selective requirements:
 - i. Computing requirement: [GPH-GU 2286](#) Introduction to Data Management and Statistical Computing **OR** [GPH-GU 2182 Statistical Programming in R](#)
 - ii. [GPH-GU 2225](#) Psychometric Measurement & Analysis in Public Health Research & Practice **OR** [GPH-GU 2387](#) Survey Design, Analysis, and Reporting
 - iii. [GPH-GU 2480](#) Longitudinal Analysis of Public Health Data **OR** [GPH-GU 2368](#) Applied Survival Analysis
 - iv. **Only for MS** – [GPH-GU 2363](#) Causal Inference: Design and Analysis **OR** [GPH-GU 2930](#) Epidemiology Design & Methods **OR** [GPH-GU 3225](#) Statistical Inference **OR** [APSTE-GE 2012](#) Causal Inference
- c. You may take more than one of the courses available for the selective, counting one as the required course, and the other(s) as the elective(s).
- d. Please refer to the degree requirements area of the Biostatistics websites ([MPH](#), [MS](#)) for further information.

4. Electives:

- a. Pre-approved electives for MS students are listed on our website [here](#), so be sure to bookmark them. (Some of these require approval, as they depend on what other electives you are taking.) If you would like to take a course as an elective that is not listed on our website, [please fill out this form](#).
- b. For MPH students, 9 credits are required, 3 of which have to fall within the category of Group A (Methods), and 6 of which have to fall within the category of Group B (Statistics). Approved electives – including Group A vs. Group B designation – are listed on our website [here](#). If you would like to take a course as a Group A or Group B elective and it is not listed on our website, [please fill out this form](#).

5. Checklist:

- a. You should use the checklist to follow along as you progress through your degree. You will use it to plan your courses (and, for MS students, to explain your elective theme and selected electives).
- b. The MPH Biostatistics Checklist may be [found here](#). The MS Checklist may be [found here](#). These are provided for your information, only (a digital copy with access to these links will be sent after the orientation) – the process of filling out a copy will take place when meeting with your Student Affairs advisor.

6. Departmental Procedures/FAQ

- a. How to substitute a course: if you have taken a course that is comparable to one of our required courses and would like to request a substitution, please fill out the [GPH Course Waiver Form](#).
- b. How to request approval for an elective not on our [list](#): please fill out the [GPH Graduate Elective Substitution form](#).
- c. Students may transfer up to 9 credits at the graduate level. [Please submit this form](#) if you'd like to submit transfer credits.

7. General Resources

- a. Your advisor within the Office of Student Affairs will be your first resource for any questions regarding:
 - i. Advisement on Degree Requirements & Policies (GPA requirement, course repeat policy, etc., listed [on the GPH website](#))
 - ii. Connecting to other offices (e.g. registration, applied practice, study abroad, Wasserman career center)
 - iii. Assistance with personal issues and finding solutions to your questions/concerns (time management, stress management, etc.)
- b. NYU Data Services offers a wide range of free, 1-2 hour short courses covering the collection, cleaning/organization, visualization, and analysis of data, including many on statistical software packages and other topics of relevance to our students. While our own courses will cover some of this software in greater detail (without expecting prior experience), these can be a great resource to gain familiarity with a specific tool you'd like to use, or to broaden your knowledge base more generally. The full list of courses and their descriptions is available [here](#) (and the current calendar for upcoming classes [here](#))
 - i. Relevant course examples: [What statistical software to use?](#) • [Introduction to Stata](#) • [Introduction to R](#) • [Data Wrangling in R](#) • [Creating Graphics with R](#) • [Introduction to SAS](#) • [Introduction to Git and GitHub](#) • [Introduction to Python](#) • [Introduction to SPSS](#) • [Data Cleaning & Management Using Python](#) • [Python for harvesting data on the web](#) • [Survey Design with Qualtrics](#) • [Data Cleaning for GIS](#) • [Introduction to Git and GitHub](#) • [Principles of Finding Data](#) • [Data](#)

[Wrangling in SPSS](#) • [Introduction to JMP](#) • [Data Wrangling in Stata](#) • [Reproducible Workflows in R](#)

- c. A variety of statistical packages are available to you as a GPH student:
 - i. A Stata license is available at no cost to GPH students at https://nyu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8HN61VD8MWSV4vI
 - ii. [RStudio Desktop](#) is a free, open-source software, and the free version is all that is required for our courses.
 - iii. SAS is freely available for use through [SAS OnDemand for Academics](#), as well as through the Virtual Computer Lab (info below)
 - iv. While Stata, R, and SAS are all that you require for our courses, many other packages (such as SPSS) are available for use on the Virtual Computer Lab, which provides NYU students with virtual access to academically relevant software applications. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.
- d. The [NYU Writing Center](#) is another free resource of which we highly recommend that our students take advantage. Through an array of workshops, writing groups, and individualized writing conferences with faculty consultants and peer tutors, they are dedicated to helping you develop your writing and grow as a writer. You may use these resources (or [schedule an individual appointment](#)) to workshop and improve in a range of writing scenarios – coursework, thesis writing, other research work, and more!
- e. The NYU [Wasserman Center for Career Development](#) offers a range of general programming and resources to explore career directions, build professional networks, refine job documents (such as resumes and cover letters), and develop plans of action for your job search. While our faculty are also a great resource for this in terms of more specialized advice in the field of biostatistics, Wasserman has a wealth of knowledge and experience that can be of great assistance with the job search and application process more generally.
- f. [NYU Handshake](#) is NYU's primary job listing board for students – both for opportunities at various departments throughout NYU, and for some external opportunities shared with NYU by recruiters. Most notably, this is where many of our department's research assistant positions are posted, as well as those of other departments at GPH. While we make an effort to reach out through other channels to notify students of these opportunities, we still highly recommend checking Handshake regularly if you're interested in such positions!
- g. The [Office of Global Services \(OGS\)](#) is the resource at NYU for immigration and visa questions. They advise on immigration regulations in the US and visas needed outside of the US for NYU purposes. They also advise on international taxes, moving internationally, and other challenges.