Division of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics

Advancement to Candidacy

Information regarding advancement for current students in the Biostatistics PhD Program.

Advancement to Candidacy Proposal Defense

Each student is required to pass an oral examination defending the proposed dissertation. A copy of the written dissertation proposal must be circulated to the entire committee **at least 3 weeks** before the scheduled oral proposal defense date. The dissertation committee must formally approve the dissertation proposal before the student can go forward and complete the dissertation.

The written proposal should include the following:

      a) background on the science and domain

      b) literature review on the relevant science and statistical methods

      c) plan for meeting dissertation norms (see below).

Biostatistics PhD Dissertation Norms

A PhD dissertation in Biostatistics is expected to make important contributions to the field of biostatistics including development of novel statistical methodology and the application of statistical methods to advance research in a scientific domain. A dissertation should consist of original work of publishable quality that addresses a common statistical theme or scientific area. The work included in the dissertation must be based on work begun, performed and completed while a student in the BDP. The content of the dissertation should be equivalent to 3 publishable papers with the student as first author (i.e., the major contributor). Please refer to the "Writing Your Dissertation" document linked on the Current Students webpage for additional guidelines.