

Incoming Graduate Students

Department of Statistics, University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Statistics Graduate Student Association

2022-02-17

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Chapter 1

Welcome

As current statistics graduate students at University of Nebraska, Lincoln, we wanted to welcome you to the department. We hope this document is useful as you prepare to move to Lincoln and/or start graduate school this upcoming Fall.

- Department Website: <https://statistics.unl.edu/>

Most questions regarding the program should be directed to the Department Secretary:

- Alison Reckewey
 - areckewey2@unl.edu

If you have other questions, the Statistics Graduate Student Association (GSA) will do their best to provide assistance:

- Alison Kleffner (President)
 - akleffner@huskers.unl.edu
- Rachel Rogers (Vice-President)
 - rachel.rogers@huskers.unl.edu
- Oliver Titus (Treasurer)
 - otitus2@huskers.unl.edu

We look forward to meeting you!

Chapter 2

Classes

2.1 Course Schedule

A full-time graduate student typically takes about 9 credits per semester. This summer you will need to register for your Fall 2021 courses. Your first semester courses are already selected for you with flexibility in electives later on in the program. During this upcoming semester, you will want to make sure you are registered for:

- Stat 821: Statistical Methods I (3 Credits)
- Stat 882: Mathematical Statistics I (3 Credits)
- Stat 850: Statistical Computing (2 Credits)
- Stat 810: Alpha Seminar (1 Credit)

If you will have a Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) you will also need to register for:

- Stat 892: TA Prep (1 Credit)

2.2 Registration

To register for classes, you can go to MYRED (<https://myred.nebraska.edu/>), which is a portal where you can register for classes and view your student account. I would recommend looking through this portal in order to get familiar with all of the things that can be done in here. Under the enrollment tab, click “Search for Classes”. Find the classes that you want to enroll and click “Add to Cart”. Once you have added all the necessary classes click on “Shopping Cart”. Once in here click “Proceed to Enrollment

Checkout”. If you enroll in Stat 892: TA Prep, you will need a special permission code. To get that you must email Alison Reckewey in the front office. Additionally, if you are having issues enrolling in classes she is also the person you would want to contact.

Another way to register for classes is through the Enrollment Scheduler. A walkthrough on how to register this way can be found at: <https://registrar.unl.edu/student/registration/tutorials/#enroll>.

The books that you will need can also be found in MYRED. Please make sure you buy these books as they will be good references your first semester and throughout your time in the program (There are pdf versions of most of these books, just know that if you decide to stay for the PhD and take the qualifying exam, you’ll need a physical copy).

2.3 International Student Training

International graduate students for whom English is not their native language and who expect to receive instructional assignments must successfully complete the Institute for International Teaching Assistants. It is a requirement of your TA if you are an international student. The 2021 dates for this is August 2 to August 13, and registration but be submitted no later than June 30, 2021. Information on how to apply and what you should expect to learn in this training program can be found at: <https://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/professional-development/ita>

Chapter 3

University of Nebraska

This section consists of items that you will want to take care of before classes start, and other useful information about UNL

3.1 UNL ID Card

Your NCard is your UNL photo identification card and is used campus-wide for many purposes including identification and access to buildings. Places that your NCard will get you access to includes the department after hours and on weekends, Campus Recreation Centers, the Nebraska Unions, and Husker sporting events. Purchases can be made using your NCard and the charges will appear on your Student Accounts Consolidated Bill found on MyRed. For example, purchases made at the any of the on campus dining options can be done using your NCard.

The Basic Steps for obtaining your NCard are as follows:

- Submit a photo of yourself and fill out the application online
- Pick up your NCard from the Ncard office (Room 121 of the Nebraska Union on City Campus). You will need to bring a state-issued ID in order to do so. There are special instructions on how to pick up your NCard when you fill out the application. I would recommend getting this done as soon as possible once you arrive to Lincoln as you don't want to be trying to get your NCard at the same time as all the undergraduates.
- Set up NCard account: NCard needs to be activated before it can be used to make purchases.

Link to the NCard website to fill out application and read full list of places it can be used: <https://ncard.unl.edu>

3.2 Bus Pass

All students that pay student fees will receive a mobile bus pass for the academic school year. The StarTran bus service connects City, East, and the Nebraska Innovation campuses and is covered in the student fees. Instructions on how to download this mobile bus pass should be sent out in an email towards the beginning of the semester, but also can be found on the UNL parking services website ([Click Here](#)) for instructions.

There are four bus routes around the campuses:

- Bus Route 22: Goes around city campus only
- Bus Route 23: Goes around east campus only
- Bus Route 24: Holdredge (Goes between east and city campus - clockwise)
- Bus Route 25: Vine (Goes between east and city campus - counterclockwise)

Route 24 and 25 runs every 10 minutes from 7am-6pm M-F and every 20 minutes from 6pm-9pm. A list of stops and the schedule can be found on the link below. From personal experience the buses tend to not be on schedule and tend to get clumped together, so when traveling between campuses make sure to take this into account.

This past year due to COVID-19, the busses were free and a bus pass was not required. I'm not quite sure if that will remain true for next school year, but the university will send an email closer to the beginning of the school year with that information

Bus Website: [Link Here](#)

3.3 Parking Pass

Due to the location of Hardin Hall (where the Statistic Offices and many of your classes will be), most students in the department do not purchase a parking pass and instead park in the neighborhoods across the street.

However, if you do decide you would like to purchase a parking pass, more information can be found here: [Parking Pass Information](#)

3.4 SAS License

SAS is a statistical software that if you are not familiar with quite yet, you soon will be as it is commonly used in your first semester of courses and throughout the program. In order to get this installed on your computer, first you must stop in and see Alison Reckewey in the statistics main office (Hardin 340) in order to pay the \$65 license fee. This can be paid using your NCard once it is activated, check, or exact cash. After this is paid, you will need to take your computer to see Steve Westerholt in 342A Hardin Hall so he can install SAS on your computer. This may take awhile so make sure that you have a couple of hours where you will not need your laptop. Make sure you bring your power cord with you as well. Additionally, I would recommend doing this the week before classes start, as Steve tends to be busy with SAS renewals the first week of class that may cause a backup.

Also as a heads up, SAS is easily installed on a PC, however if you have a MAC not as much. There are different options that Steve will brief you on when you give him your laptop.

3.5 Campus Wi-Fi

Another important thing to do when you arrive on campus is to set up your computer with the campus Wi-Fi. We usually go over this as a department before the first week of classes, however, instructions can be found at <https://its.unl.edu/services/wi-fi/> on how to do this. This needs to be done before Steve can install SAS on your computer, and he should be able to help if you are having issues connecting to the Wi-Fi network.

3.6 Printing

If you have a PC, Steve Westerholt will be able to easily connect you to one of the printers within the department, which is very convenient. If you have a MAC, I'm sure this may still be able to be done, but I would talk to Steve to get more information on this.

3.7 Student Fees

Here is a list of the Mandatory Student Fees you should be aware of as listed on the Universities Website for the 2020-2021 academic year. I couldn't find next year's quite yet, but they should be roughly similar:

- Registration Fee - \$20.00 (due each semester a student registers for classes)
- Technology Fee - \$11.00 per credit hour
- ID Card Fee - \$20.00 (One time fee assessed when pick up first NCard)
- Library Fee - \$6.25 per credit hour
- University Program/Facilities Fee - \$617.00
- New International Graduate Fee - \$70.00 (One-time fee due the first semester an international graduate student is enrolled)
- There are also late fees for failing to pay you bill on time and if you register for classes late.

Optional Student Fees (This is updated for the 2021-2022 Academic Year):

- Health Insurance Fall - \$1392.74
- Health Insurance Spring/Summer - \$1930.42

Graduate students are automatically enrolled in the health insurance plan, so if you have your own health insurance you can opt out (You have until sometime in September to do this and will have to prove that you have health insurance).

If you have funding from the department, check your contract for a insurance coverage. It is common that included with an assistantship, a portion of the student health insurance premium will be covered.

More information on the Student Health Insurance: <https://studentaccounts.unl.edu/student-health-insurance>

Where student fee and tuition information should hopefully be updated: https://studentaccounts.unl.edu/graduate-tuition#ay_fee_block

3.8 University Health Center

This section is more of an FYI, but UNL has a health center that offers many different services that may be of interest especially if you are not from Nebraska. For example, they offer primary care, pharmacy, dental services, immunization clinic, counseling and

psychological services, and many others that are all located within a building on city campus. Some of these services are offered for free (like receiving a flu shot) and for others you either can use your student health insurance (things like check-ups would be completely covered), or if you have your own the university works with most insurance companies. More information can be found here: <https://health.unl.edu>

Additionally if you do not want to go to the health center, for dental services, the dental college on east campus offers dental services with one of their dental students for a significantly reduced cost.

3.9 East Campus

Unless you are teaching on City Campus, or taking a class out of the department, you will spend pretty much all of your time on East Campus. The University has put a lot of work into renovating parts of East Campus the last few years. Among these renovations is the East Campus Rec Center (need NCard to enter), the East Campus Union (has places to buy snacks and to study), and the Dinsdale Learning Commons (aka the library), which has a lot of places to study at. Additionally, there is an Arboretum with tables if you ever want to study outside. So don't feel like you have to spend all of your time in Hardin, and make use of some of these nice and renovated facilities.

Chapter 4

Housing

4.1 Living Suggestions

Lincoln, Nebraska has a great selection of housing. Below is a list of locations and complexes current graduate students in our department have lived or currently live:

Within walking distance of the department (East Campus)

- No name: 3331 Holdrege St
 - Can't find contact, but if you google it, a handful of apartment finder websites pop up.
- 3405 Holdrege Street, Shack LLC, owned by Beth Gaylord (Very Clean apartments, 2 mins walk to the department)
 - <https://www.apartmenthomeliving.com/apartment-finder/Shacks-LLC-Lincoln-NE-68503-5917259>
- There are a handful of apartments along Holdrege Street all within walking distance or easily hop on a bus directly to the department, they don't really have names, but you can draw a polygon on this website and see what is available within this distance.
 - https://www.apartments.com/?sk=12394ce32a178ee889f5950ad651d0cb&b=jys406n_3Kq1glU
- 35 East (WRK Real Estate)
 - <https://www.thirtyfiveeast.com/>

Nearby East Campus (Could walk, but might be a little longer walk)

- Square at 48 (there is a bus directly from here to the department)

- <http://www.square48.com/>
- Ashley Square Apartments (Easy walk, but might be chilly in the winter)
 - <https://www.apartmentguide.com/apartments/Nebraska/Lincoln/Ashley-Square/22090/>
- Another polygon area which you could easily bus from
 - <https://www.apartments.com/?sk=1a0482a94076d43e0c11ac36d3c6fa52&b=i98ymjn93KstyhP>

Not within walking distance of the department, but nearby (East Campus)

- Chateau Development (there is a bus within walking distance of their Trailview Campus from here to the department)
 - <https://www.chateaudev.com/search?beds=bed-1&baths=bath-1&rentMax=850>
- Tanglewood (No bus directly to East Campus, bus goes directly to City Campus only)
 - https://www.richdale.apartments/tanglewood-apartments-1/index.aspx?utm_knock=g
- Lions Gate (No bus directly to East Campus, bus goes directly to City Campus only)
 - https://www.richdale.apartments/lionsgate-apartments/index.aspx?utm_knock=g
- The Flats at Leighton District
 - <https://www.ldflats.com/>

Other possible companies to contact

- JTT Holdings Company
- Rental Real Estate
- Century Sales and Management
- WRK Real Estate (35 East close to campus and Canopy Lofts downtown)
- Telegraph Distict (new and fancy, but Allo internet included in the rent)
 - <https://www.telegraphdistrict.com/>

Most students seemed to have found an apartment by just googling “apartments in Lincoln”, or looking through apartment rental sites like Zillow. Please be aware that there are some apartment complexes that will not allow you to rent an apartment without first visiting it, but there are places that will.

If you are interested in finding a roommate:

- Reach out to one of the Stat GSA officers and we will send out a message to see if any current students are looking for a roommate. Not gauranteed, but we will do our best to help connect you.
- University of Nebraska Facebook Page
- If you are from India, the Indian Student Association (who has a facebook page) can help potentially connect you with a roommate and potential places to live.

4.2 Furniture

If you are in need of some new/used furniture, here are some recommendations:

- Facebook marketplace
- UNL CSSA Facebook Page
- UNL Buy and Sell Facebook Page
- Goodwill
- Craigslist
- Walmart
- Target
- Furniture Row
- Amazon: will probably have to do your own assembling, but a good option if you don't have a car
- Nebraska Furniture Mart: located in Omaha and is a bit more on the expensive side compared to these other places, but it's really nice new furniture. It is a set of multiple buildings, and there is a clearance building called Mrs. B's with discounted furniture. In most cases, for an additional fee, they can ship it to Lincoln and bring it into your housing for you.

4.3 Grocery Stores

There a quite a few different grocery stores around Lincoln, here is a list of popular grocers used by students in this department:

- Hyvee
- Walmart

- Sam's Club
- Supersaver
- Trader Joe's in South Lincoln
- Aldi's
- Target
- Natural Grocers
- Costco
- Suji's Indian Grocery
- Guerrero's Market on S 11th St (Mexican Grocery Store)
- Little Saigon Oriental Market (Asian)
- Oriental Market (Asian)
- Additionally in Omaha there is a Bangladeshi fish market and a good Indian grocery store

Chapter 5

Lincoln, Nebraska

We have surveyed the students within the department and asked them to provide some of their favorite places and activities around Lincoln.

5.1 Restaurants

5.1.1 Coffeeshops:

- The Coffee House
- Cultiva
- The Mill
- Mojava
- The Rabbit Hole Bakery

Located on East Campus there is a Starbucks in the East Campus Union. On City Campus there is a Dunkin' Donuts in the Adele Hall Learning Commons and a Starbucks in the City Campus Union

5.1.2 Food and Drinks:

- Astoria or Persis (in Omaha) - better than any Lincoln Indian restaurant
- Boiler Brewing Company (taproom - good for drinks)
- Buzzard Billy's
- El Chaparro (Mexican)
- El Potrero (Mexican)
- Chick-fil-a

- Chili's
- Chipotle
- The Copper Kettle (Place to get Moscow Mules)
- Fattoush (Arabic Restuarant that serves a good kebab)
- HF Crave
- Honest Abes (Lincoln burger chain)
- HopCat (Good drink place and has great fries)
- Issara
- Kinkaider (taproom - good for drinks)
- Subway
- Panda Express
- Kurry Xpress
- Lazlo's
- Leadbelly
- Mr. Hui's
- The Oven (Indian)
- Panera
- Penelope's Lil Cafe
- Qdoba
- Runza (Nebraskan fast food chain)
- Sandy's (Here can play pool and darts with some cheap drinks, they also used to have Tuesday karaoke nights)
- Sultan's Kite (Mediterranean)
- Tavern on the Square (drink place)
- The Watering Hole
- Tia Lety
- Valentino's (Nebraskan Pizza Chain)
- Vincenzos (Italian)

5.2 Night Life

- The Railyard: Across the street from Pinacle Bank Arena and has typically has live music on the weekends and watch parties for certain sporting events. Turns into an outdoor ice skating rink in the winter. Many events are hosted around here in the summer.
- The Haymarket: bar and restaurant district

- Many other bars on O and P street.

If you are a TA, the advice I was given on my tour was if you were worried about seeing your students while you were out, then stick to bars in the Haymarket area.

5.3 Activities

5.3.1 Sporting Events:

- Nebraska Cornhuskers
 - Nebraska does not have any professional sports teams, so the locals tend to be pretty crazed for all things Huskers. I would not recommend trying to study on City Campus while there is a football game happening as there will be lots of people and no place to park
 - Most home sporting events at UNL are free with your student ID. This includes baseball, softball, track and field, gymnastics, women's basketball, women's soccer, and wrestling. Please see the athletic departments website (linked below) for a full list of sports and their schedules. Sometimes will give away free items, like tshirts.
 - Football, Men's Basketball and Volleyball are the three sports that you have to have student season tickets for. Typically information for securing student tickets goes out during the spring semester before the next academic school year. If you are unable to secure student season tickets or don't want to commit to a full season, check out The Iron N Student Ticket Exchange Facebook group. This is a place where students can sell a single game ticket if they are unable to attend. The ticket tab on the athletic department website will lead you to the student ticket portal where you would need to create an account to buy tickets and accept transferred tickets from another student. I recommend trying to attend a football game or volleyball game at least once while you are here even if you aren't a huge sports fan. It is definitely a Nebraskan cultural experience and great for people-watching! The volleyball team is typically ranked within the top 10 nationally and won a national championship in 2017. The football team is just trying to have a winning season at this point, but the games are still fun to attend.
 - Athletic Website: huskers.com

- Lincoln Saltdogs: A member of the South Division of the American Association of Independent Professional Baseball
- Omaha Stormchasers: Triple-A affiliate of the Kansas City Royals. About a 45 minute drive from Campus but typically have fun theme nights. For Sunday home games you can sit in the grass for free if you bring 3 nonperishable Hyvee-labeled food items
- Lincoln and Omaha also tend to host random sporting events throughout the year, so if you are interested be on the lookout for those. The Men's College World Series is held in Omaha each June, and even if you can't get into the game the beer gardens around the stadium can be fun.

5.3.2 Outdoor Activities:

- Any of the lakes or parks (for example Holmes Lake)
- Bike Trails
- There are a few state parks within a 30 minute drive of Lincoln (for example, Branched Oak, Mahoney and Platte River) that have trails, camping and other activities.
- Pioneer's Park Nature Center
- Farmer's Markets (there is one in the Haymarket then tends to run from like May to October, google it to find more info)

5.3.3 Other Activities:

- Marcus Movie Theater on P Street
- Nebraska Crossing Outlets: About a 35 minute drive from Lincoln and tends to have pretty good deals, especially around holiday weekends.
- Shows at the Lied Performing Arts Center
- Ice Skating at John Breslow Hockey Center
- Roller Skating Museum (just go once! haha)
- Capitol Building
- Children's Museum
- Attending Indian Festivals
- Concerts: Pinnacle Bank Arena and the CHI Health Center (Omaha) for bigger artists. Smaller venues include The Bourbon Theater, The Waiting Room (Omaha), and The Slowdown (Omaha)

- The Campus Rec Centers on both East Campus and City Campus
- Monthly Happy Hours with the STAT GSA!!! (shameless plug) - check your emails
- Additionally, the university tends to send out weekly emails that has activities (both on and off campus), so those are always good things to scan through as well.
- Also many activities in Omaha like Top Golf and the Henry Doorly Zoo

5.4 Social Media Pages to Follow

What are some social media pages you follow to get information about events happening on campus and/or in Lincoln?

- DowntownLincoln on Twitter
- UNL Graduation Studies
- UNL New Student Involvement

Chapter 6

Statistics Graduate Student Association (Stat GSA)

6.1 Events

The Stat GSA has a couple of different events throughout the year as a way to get to know your fellow students and hopefully have some fun!:

- Monthly Happy Hours
- Cultural Potluck: Once a semester we have a potluck where students bring food from their native country to share with department. There is a wonderful variety of food and there are quite a few good cooks within the department!
- Study Breaks: About once a month, we have a study break where a couple of students are in charge of bringing snacks to share.
- Spring Event: Typically we have a fun event in the spring as a celebration of the end of the year. In years past we have typically gone bowling, though this last spring we did go to Top Golf in Omaha!

More information on dates and location of these will be sent to your emails, so be sure to check those!

Additionally, we ask that each semester students pay \$5.00 in due money to go towards buying drinks for the potluck and to help pay for the Spring Event.

6.2 Social Media

Follow us on Twitter `@unl_statistics` to stay up-to-date with what is going on within the department and the university.

Chapter 7

Advice from Current Graduate Students

What is one good tip you were given prior to Grad School?

- “Relax the summer before”
- “Don’t stress about results, just enjoy the experience”
- “You will definitely be overwhelmed considering that it is a big leap from the undergrad studies. But everything will be fine”
- “MEAL PREPPING!”
- “Stay connected with others and the department”
- “Have a great balance between work and life. That means that no one should study ALL the time. Finding a hobby or hobbies will help with the stress of graduate school.”
- “You might need to re-learn how to study/do homework. It’s a lot different from undergraduate!”
- “Don’t take everything too seriously”
- “Make sure to make time for fun”
- “All the students are in this together. Work together. Ask each other questions. Help each other.”
- “There will come a time in class where you will have no clue what is going on. Don’t panic, you are probably not the only one. Don’t be afraid to ask for help from your classmates or professors.”
- “Make sure to allocate proper time for sleep (ie. choose sleep over cramming)”
- “Have a personal life. It’s healthy to have a balance!”

What is something you wish you had known before moving to Lincoln and beginning graduate school?

- “Should keep very organized notes that I can refer to later in the semester”
- “Managing a balanced life”
- “Public transport is not great, it would be useful to find housing near bus routes or have your own car.”
- “Lot of outdoor activities conducted by UNL outdoor adventure center, great way to make new friends who enjoy doing the same things as you. Beer tours at Zipline - good way of making friends outside of your academic circle. Lot of events are organized by different international students organizations - Malaysia night, India night, good way to meet new people.”
- “It’s very important to form a cohort, even if that’s not the people starting at the same time as you. Form study groups, find people you can ask questions or get advice from. Grad school is a collaborative experience!”
- “know and constantly communicate with everyone in your cohort. Makes everything easier”
- “Making new friends takes effort. Work hard to deepen friendships. Also, they don’t plow residential roads.”
- “Enjoy this time to learn and meet new friends. Many people will be your future colleagues and those who will remain in your life for the extended future.”
- “Get creative with your coursework and projects. Take classes in the computer science, or economics department. Don’t just stick with the normal classes. Go above and beyond.”
- “This experience is what you make of it. If you don’t put in the work to get to know your fellow students and faculty, and attend events hosted by either the gsa or department, the experience probably won’t be as fun. It’s also a chance to network with people who will be your peers.”