Statistics Placement Information for Incoming Students and Advisors

CONTACT:
Nicholas Horton (x5655 or nhorton@amherst.edu) is the Statistics Placement Advisor.

The DEFAULT Statistics placement for incoming first-year students is Stat 111. This course is intended for students who have had no prior work in calculus in college or high school. Placement may be appropriately adjusted based on the following sets of criteria:

Math 121 or higher placement, OR AP Statistics 3 or 4: Stat 135 (Introduction to Statistics via Modeling) is the recommended statistics course for students with some experience with calculus or prior exposure to statistics. Students who were initially placed into Math 111 but who subsequently take calculus should take Stat 135.

- Potential Mathematics or Statistics Majors should enroll in Stat 135, rather than Stat 111.
- Stat 111 does NOT count towards the mathematics major.

Students who have Scored a 5 on the AP Statistics test, OR Completed International Baccalaureate (HL) Levels with the Statistics Option with a score of 6 or 7, are eligible to move directly into Stat 230 (Intermediate Statistics), Stat 231 (Data Science), or other 200-level Statistics electives. (Students with an AP Statistics exam score of 4 may consider a 200-level course after conferring with the statistics placement advisor.)

Students should contact the statistics placement advisor (Nicholas Horton, nhorton@amherst.edu) to request approval based on their statistics background, then contact the course instructor before registering in the higher-level course.

Preparation for Higher Level Courses: Students who complete Stat 111, Psyc 122, or who have successfully placed out of Stat 111/135 who intend to pursue additional courses in statistics (such as Stat 230, Stat 231, Stat 235, Stat 240) are strongly encouraged to meet with a member of the Statistics faculty prior to undertaking additional statistics courses and to identify any missing learning outcomes from these alternative pathways and develop a plan for self-study to address these. Support is available to assist with this preparation through the Statistics faculty and the Statistics and Data Science Fellows.

Questions about Statistics Placement: Contact Professor Nicholas Horton, the Statistics Placement Advisor.

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