

Career Opportunities in Statistics

ASA RESOURCES

Amstat Online

The ASA web site links users to various online resources for statisticians and students interested in statistics.

www.amstat.org

Amstat News

The monthly membership magazine of the ASA prints an entire issue devoted to careers in statistics.

To order a copy, visit

www.amstat.org/publications

CHANCE

This quarterly magazine is a general-interest publication with articles featuring entertaining material on the world of statistics.

www.amstat.org/publications/chance

Committee on Minorities in Statistics

This committee's web site features up-to-date links to other resources and contact information for committee members.

www.amstat.org/comm



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MINORITIES IN STATISTICS

United Negro College Fund

www.uncf.org

Hispanic College Fund

www.HispanicFund.org

hcf-info@hispanicfund.org

Hispanic Scholarship Fund

www.hsf.net

info@hsf.net

American Indian College Fund

www.collegefund.org

info@collegefund.org

Statistics deals with making inductive inferences in the face of uncertainty. Statisticians are called upon to apply statistical methods in government policymaking, pharmaceuticals development, market research, quality control, and education. In addition to a variety of applications, statistics provides for lucrative careers, with senior-level statisticians often earning six-figure salaries.

OPPORTUNITIES

Persons interested in mathematics, computers, engineering, sociology, medicine, education, and practically any other discipline will find statistics to be a useful and challenging tool. Minorities—especially African Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans—are under-represented in the field, and the ASA Committee on Minorities in Statistics is making efforts to inform such groups of advantages and opportunities in the sciences.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

High-school students who are interested in careers in statistics should take mathematics courses at every opportunity. The development of computer skills also is encouraged.

Language skills are important because statisticians must communicate the results of their investigations in oral and/or written reports. The ability to explain findings clearly and concisely is essential and requires comprehensive writing skills and knowledge of grammar.

On the college level, future statisticians should major in mathematics, statistics, or some related field of statistical application. Because of the applied nature of many statistical professions, it is also useful to develop skills in a particular field of study (e.g., medicine, public policy, economics, biology, psychology, exercise and sport sciences, agriculture).

GRADUATE AND POST-GRADUATE STUDIES

Many places offer opportunities for graduate fellowships, scholarships, and grants to students pursuing higher education. These institutions include:

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- National Institutes of Health
- National Physical Science Consortium
- National Science Foundation
- Private companies and industries

These opportunities usually provide salaries or stipends for several years, funds to cover tuition and research expenses, and travel funds to attend conferences. They also offer valuable first-hand experience in a specific field.