

# Biostatistics & Genetic Epidemiology

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## Research

Master's students have multiple opportunities to engage in biomedical research. After completing the first summer semester, students in the MSIBS and MSBDS program are eligible to work as part-time research assistants. These positions are frequently available, both within the I<sup>2</sup>DB as well as in other departments and research labs on the School of Medicine campus. In addition, depending on the degree program, students will intern and/or work on an independent mentored research project to hone their research skills, including study design, data analysis, and interpretation. GEMS students will work on a mentored research project to explore and characterize the interplay between genes and the environment that affects the biological processes underlying disease.

## Mentored Research

All students enrolled in the Mentored Research course will complete a master's thesis, which may involve conducting and reporting on comprehensive data analysis or conducting research and reporting on a focused methodological problem; the latter may include a computer simulation approach to solve a problem, an in-depth review of available methods in a certain topical area, or the development of new methods. Each student will work closely with a mentor who has expertise in biostatistics or a related quantitative field. The grade for each student will be determined in consultation with the mentor.

## Internship

The primary goal of the Internship program is for all students enrolled in Internship to acquire critical professional experience so that they will be well prepared to enter the job market upon graduation. This provides an opportunity for students to test-drive the job market, develop contacts, build marketable skills, and figure out likes and dislikes in the chosen field.