Students in the graduate program in statistics at Rice University have the opportunity for rigorous training in the theory and practice of statistics. Rice’s relatively small size allows for a close working relationship between students and faculty, including those in other departments. Upon graduation, about half of our doctoral students take academic and research positions and half take industrial positions.

The research interests of the faculty cover a wide spectrum of topics in applied statistics, including engineering, natural sciences, business, medicine and the social sciences. The core research areas of the graduate faculty fall into four general categories of statistical inquiry, namely: 1) nonparametric function estimation, 2) stochastic processes, 3) biostatistics and statistical genomics and 4) modeling and computational statistics. These broad areas are enhanced by the active involvement of our adjunct faculty. Specific research concentrations in the past 15 years include but are not limited to applied probability, Bayesian methods, bioinformatics, biomathematics, biostatistics, application of computer graphics to high-dimensional data analysis, clinical trials, computer intensive methods of estimation, data analysis, environmental statistics, epidemiology, financial modeling, image processing, massive data, machine and statistical learning, model building, nonparametric function estimation including density estimation, quality control, robust methods, statistical computing, statistical genetics and linkage analysis, spatial processes, spatio-temporal processes, stochastic process and time series.

Students interested in biostatistics, biomathematics, bioinformatics and statistical genetics will find excellent collaborative opportunities through our collaborative Ph.D. program with the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. See our website (www.stat.rice.edu) for the most current information regarding this program as well as our other areas of emphasis.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS
Three graduate degrees are offered: a professional degree (M.Stat.), research master’s degree (M.A.), and the doctoral degree (Ph.D.). Thirty semester hours are required for master level degrees. Additional requirements for the M.A. degree in statistics include a publicly defended original thesis or satisfactory performance on the second-year Ph.D. comprehensive examination and complete a major project. Candidates for the doctorate must complete 90 hours of course work, including research hours, perform satisfactorily on preliminary and qualifying examinations and produce an original thesis that is publicly defended.

GRADUATE COURSES OFFERED
Courses offered by the department range from foundations, statistical methods, and diverse applications to advanced topics:

405 STATISTICAL COMPUTING AND GRAPHICS
410 INTRODUCTION TO REGRESSION AND STATISTICAL COMPUTING
411 ADVANCED STATISTICAL METHODS
431 OVERVIEW OF MATHEMATICAL STATISTICS
440 STATISTICS FOR BIOENGINEERING
449 QUANTITATIVE FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT
450 STATISTICAL DESIGN IN PRACTICE
Computer Facilities

Computing is an integral part of graduate education in the department, and the faculty is committed to maintaining a first-class computer environment for its students. The department, the School of Engineering and the university computing centers offer a wide range of computing equipment and support. The department currently offers free access to desktop computing to all graduate students for research and instructional purposes. In addition, advanced parallel and graphical workstations are available for specific research projects.

Graduate Faculty


Michael Schweinberger. Assistant Professor of Statistics MS (2002), PhD (2007) University of Groningen, the Netherlands. Dependent and high-dimensional data, models, theoretical statistics, computational statistics, applications.


JOINT FACULTY


Krishna Palem. Ken and Audrey Kennedy Professor of Computing, Professor of Computer Science, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Director of VISEN Center. Ph.D. (1986) University of Texas, Austin.


Edward Williams. Henry Gardiner Symonds Professor of Management. Ph.D. (1968) University of Texas at Austin.


ADJUNCT FACULTY
Adjunct Professors
Keith Baggerly
Donald A. Berry
Barry W. Brown
Scott Cantor
Kim-Anh Do
Valen Johnson
Sallie Ann Keller
Suzanne Leal
J. Jack Lee
Jeff Morris
Yu Shen
Sanjay Shete
Peter Thall

Adjunct Associate Professors
Veera Baladandayuthapani
Joanquin Diaz-Saiz
Olga Gorlova
Xuelin Huang
Yuan Ji
Bonnie Ray
Ying Yuan

Adjunct Assistant Professors
Michele Guindani
Chad Shaw
CAMPUS VISIT

We encourage you to visit Rice at any time for a firsthand look at the department and the beautiful, tree-lined campus near the heart of historic Houston. If you apply and are admitted, you may be invited to visit the campus. During your time here, you will not only visit with faculty, but usually you'll be hosted by current graduate students from whom you can learn more about graduate life and lifestyles in Houston. In the meantime, feel free to contact the department with any questions you may have.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applicants will be asked to provide GRE scores (quantitative, verbal, and analytical), undergraduate transcripts, and three letters of recommendation. TOEFL scores should also be included when appropriate.

Requests for application information should be sent to:

E-mail: statadmin@stat.rice.edu
Web site: statistics.rice.edu

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Rice University
Chair, Graduate Committee
Department of Statistics–MS 138
P.O. Box 1892
Houston, TX 77251-1892
Phone: 713-348-6032
Fax: 713-348-5476

ABOUT RICE AND HOUSTON

Rice is a leading American research university—small, private and highly selective—distinguished by a collaborative, interdisciplinary culture and a global perspective. Only a few miles from downtown Houston, it occupies an architecturally distinctive, 285-acre campus shaded by nearly 4,000 trees. State-of-the-art facilities and laboratories, internationally renowned centers and institutes and one of the country’s largest endowments support an ideal learning and living environment.

The university attracts a diverse group of highly talented students and faculty with outstanding graduate and professional programs in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, engineering, architecture, music and business. With just 2,374 graduate students and 3,708 undergraduates, it offers an unusual opportunity to forge close relationships with eminent faculty scholars and researchers and the option to tailor graduate programs to specific interests.

Houston offers all the expected educational, cultural and commercial advantages of a large urban center, and more. It’s home of the Texas Medical Center, the largest concentration of medical schools, hospitals and research facilities in the world, as well as several other universities. Rice has cooperative programs with the University of Houston, Baylor College of Medicine, the University of Texas Health Science Center and Texas Southern University. Houston is one of the few U.S. cities with resident companies in all four major performing arts—drama, ballet, opera and symphony. It also boasts a museum district featuring exhibits of national and international prominence.

As urban as it is, Houston also is a surprisingly green city. Houstonians enjoy the outdoors in more than 300 municipal parks and 120 open spaces, and many frequent the beach at Galveston Island, only a 45-minute drive away. Other short trips include Austin, the state’s capital, and historic San Antonio, both of which are a little more than three hours away.

Rice University homepage: www.rice.edu
Rice University Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies homepage: http://graduate.rice.edu
Graduate Student Association homepage: http://gsa.rice.edu
City of Houston homepage: www.houstontx.gov
Houston information from the Houston Chronicle: www.chron.com
Houston information from the Greater Houston Partnership: www.houston.org
Houston information from Citysearch: http://houston.citysearch.com