Why You Should Consider Graduate Study in the UCLA Department of Biostatistics
Biostatistics as an academic discipline

• Natural direction for individuals with strengths in applied mathematics
  – Linear algebra, two years of calculus as prerequisites for graduate study

• Natural direction for individuals with wide-ranging academic interests
  – Enormous variety in the areas where statistics have an impact (health sciences, social sciences, physical sciences, government)
  – Statistical analyses have even been used in the humanities to investigate authorship based on word usage!

• People often pursue biostatistics as a field of study after recognizing the importance of measurement and interpretation of data in other fields
Biostatistics as a Career

- Enormous scientific impact in medicine, public health, life sciences, survey research, computer science
- Tremendous variety in fields of application (AIDS, cancer, genetics, imaging, bioinformatics, immunology, public policy)
- Six-figure starting salaries in some areas (see New York Times, 8/6/09)
- Appealing professional community
- “Statistician” listed by JobsRated.com as #3 of 200 jobs (based on work environment, income, physical demands, stress, length of typical work week)

“I keep saying that the sexy job in the next 10 years will be statisticians. And I’m not kidding.” - Hal Varian, Chief Economist, Google, Inc. (New York Times 8/6/09)
Biostatistics as a field of graduate study

- Outstanding field for 21st century careers
- Masters programs typically 2 years (1 year if solid background in mathematical statistics/applied statistics/linear algebra)
- Doctoral program typically 4 years after M.S.
- Doctoral students typically receive financial support
  - Not uncommon for Ph.D. students to be admitted with guarantee of multiple years of support, including complete remission of tuition/fees + stipend of more than $20,000 per year, with package including work as teaching assistant or graduate student researcher
Why UCLA?

• Long tradition of excellence at a top university in a geographically and culturally appealing community
  – First Ph.D. granted in 1963

• Well-integrated in outstanding academic environment
  – Faculty in department have joint appointments in Biomathematics, Human Genetics, Medicine, Nursing, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Pediatrics, Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, Psychology, Radiological Sciences, Statistics
  – Faculty in department direct research cores in Center for AIDS Research, Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior, providing on-campus research opportunities
UCLA Department of Biostatistics Degree Programs

**Doctoral Degree Programs**
- **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)**
  - Training combines mathematical statistics, biostatistical methods, and third-field specialization
  - Careers in academia, government, biotechnology/pharmaceutical industry

**Masters Degree Programs**
- **Master of Science (M.S.)**
  - Training combines mathematical statistics, biostatistical methods with research career focus
  - Preparatory for doctoral degree or career in academic/industry/government research position

**Professional degree programs**
- **Master of Public Health (M.P.H.)**
  - Training combines biostatistical methods and programming, data management, public-health breadth
  - Preparatory for career in academic/industry/government organization or allied scientific discipline

**Academic degree programs**
- **Doctor of Public Health (Dr.P.H.)**
  - Training combines statistical and biostatistical methods with public-health specialization, consulting
  - Careers in academia, government, biotechnology/pharmaceutical industry
How to apply

• Go to application checklist for UCLA School of Public Health (www.ph.ucla.edu/app_checklist.html)
• Keep in touch with UCLA Department of Biostatistics faculty in charge of admissions and financial aid
  – Prof. Christina Ramirez, Admissions Chair (cr@g.ucla.edu)
  – Prof. Damla Senturk, Financial Aid Chair (dsenturk@ucla.edu)