

STAT 251 - Introductory Probability and Statistics Winter Term 1 (September - December, 2026)

Course Description: Probability, discrete and continuous random variables, probability distributions, estimation, hypothesis testing, analysis of variance, regression.

Learning outcomes: Detailed learning outcomes are provided on the course website

Prerequisites: One of MATH 101, 103, 105, 121, SCIE 001.

Instructor: Dr. W. A. Lasantha Premarathna (Email: wpremara@stat.ubc.ca).

- Please use the email only for personal matters that you would want to discuss with the instructor.
- If you send me an email, make sure to include **STAT 251** in the subject line.
- Please use **office hours** and **Piazza Discussion Board** for questions regarding assignment problems/text book problems/labs class note examples etc.

Class Room Information: Please refer the Canvas Course page for the class room information

Lectures & Labs: in-person

Note: If the university is closed due to extreme weather conditions (e.g., due to heavy snow), lectures will run via Zoom or recorded lectures will be posted in the canvas page. Detailed information on such days will be posted through canvas announcements. Please check the canvas course page regularly.

Instructor Office Hours:

- **Online office hour:** 9:30am – 10:30am on Friday (Zoom link can be found through the zoom tab)
- **in-person:** Just after the class on Monday, Wednesday & Friday (around 30 minutes each day). I will leave if there are no students to ask questions.

Course Coordinator: Kaique Barros (programs-assistant@stat.ubc.ca) - Please contact the programs assistant/coordinator about any administrative questions. (e.g., late registration, lab registration, etc)

Head TA, Teaching assistants & TA office hours: Please refer the Canvas course page

Course Website: canvas.ubc.ca

- Please check the **Canvas** website regularly to keep up-to-date with the course. Everything you need will be available through Canvas and you should get familiar with all the tabs as soon as possible.
- If you have any problems related to technical issues, please use **?Help** (see the left side menu in the Canvas course page) to report the problem or to contact IT service.

Textbook:

- Course notes (free, download from Canvas. Check the module “Textbook & Suggested Problems” in the canvas course page)
- Additional references: Any recent editions “Probability and Statistics for Engineering and the Sciences” (by J.L. Devore)

Course Assessment

Assessment	Date	Percentage
Class question (iClicker Cloud)	in-class	4%
WeBWork(x10)	See the schedule in canvas page	10%
Labs (x8)	See the schedule in canvas page	7%
Written Assignments (x2)	See the schedule in canvas page	10%
Pre-lab quizzes	Refer the canvas course page	2%
Midterm	Friday, Oct 30 (8:00am – 8:50am) at the regular class room	22%
Final Exam (must pass the final exam to pass the course)	To be scheduled by Classroom Services. Exam schedule is released at least 3 weeks before the final day of classes. Exam period: December 11 - 22	45%

Note: Please refer Schedule in the Canvas Course page for deadlines

Bonus points:

- Students that have answered the most statistics-related questions in Piazza in a way that explains concepts well but does not reveal the answer to an assignment, lab, or webwork question will get a bonus 1% added to their grade. When you answer question, teaching team endorse your answers as "good answer". I add this 1% if you have more than 10 "Endorsed Answers"

Policy regarding missing the midterm:

- There will be no make-up exam.
- Students who miss an exam should notify the instructor prior to (if possible) or immediately after the exam to request an Academic Concession. Students must supply a supporting document (for example, a doctor's note will be sufficient in case of a medical emergency) within 3 days of the day of exam. Failing to contact the instructor may result in a grade of zero on the Midterm.
- If your request is approved by the instructor, your midterm weight will be moved to the final exam.

Deferred Exam Policy if you miss the Final Exam:

- The policy (UBC policy) is that students who miss the final exam MUST report to their faculty advising office within 48 hours to apply for deferred standing. They must also notify the instructor to receive instructions as to when they will write their deferred final. But they will not be granted a deferred final unless they are granted deferred standing by their faculty advising office.

Chapters to be covered:

- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, & 11 (according to the free course not chapters) Detailed learning outcomes can be found on the course website. Refer to this document throughout the course to clarify the outcomes you are expected to attain for each section of the material.

Brief Course Description

- Descriptive Statistics (Ch. 1)
- Probability and probability models (Ch. 3)
- Random variables and distributions (Ch. 4-6)
- Central Limit Theorem (Ch. 7)
- Statistical estimation and hypothesis testing (Ch. 8)
- Analysis of variance (Ch. 10)
- Selected topics from regression (Ch. 2 & 11)

iClicker cloud:

- We will be using iClicker Cloud in lectures. iClicker Cloud is a response system that allows you to use your own computer or mobile device to respond to questions posed by instructors during class. You need to set up an iClicker Cloud account and add STAT 251 as a course to this account. To do so, please follow <https://lthub.ubc.ca/guides/iclicker-cloud-student-guide> for details.

Piazza Discussion Board:

- You can use "Piazza Discussion Board" to post your questions. This is where you can discuss ideas, strategies, and resources for solving the problems with your classmates. Please DO NOT POST ANSWERS to the questions in the WeBWork assignments/written assignments and Labs before the due date. Instead, share your thoughts and approaches to solving the problems. Asking others how to solve a problem without first trying to solve it yourself will not be beneficial for your learning. TAs will not give the solution for assignments questions before the due date. But they will surely give hints as needed and let you know the correct directions. If you need more clarification, it's always better to contact TAs or me during our office hours. Don't expect TAs will answer all your questions posted in Piazza page with detailed solutions. We (TAs and I) are holding lots of office hours. I highly encourage you to use office hours. Please go to "General Information" then "TA Office Hours" to see when TAs are available during each day from Monday to Friday. If you have any problems or feedback for the developers, email team@piazza.com.
- **Note:** Students that have answered the most statistics-related questions in a way that explains concepts well but does not reveal the answer to an assignment, lab, or webwork question will get a bonus 1% added to their grade. When you answer question, teaching team endorse your answers as "good answer". I add this 1% if you have more than 10 "Endorsed Answers"
- **Access Piazza:** Please go to "**Piazza**" in the left menu in the Canvas course page and it will open in a new window. Then you can sign up for the class page.

WeBWork:

- Please see the WeBWork assignments open and due dates in the Canvas course page.
Access WeBWork: Please go to "**WebWork**" in the left menu in the Canvas course page.

Labs:

- There are 8 Lab assignments. Please read more information about lab under “Labs” in Canvas course page.

Gradescope:

- Gradescope is an application for grading online, designed for easing the challenges of grading collaboratively with a teaching team, particularly on exams. Gradescope supports grading by distributing assessments and assignments to graders, helping them add grades and feedback to student work, returning graded work to students, and providing analytics for teaching teams to review the grading outcomes.
You need to submit (upload) your answers to assignments in Gradescope. Graded assignments will also be available one week after the due date. I will provide Gradescope link when assignments are posted. You also will receive an email when a Gradescope assignment available. If you have any issue accessing Gradescope, please contact lt.hub@ubc.ca.
- **Access Gradescope:** you can see where to upload your assignment when they are ready. You will be able to access Gradescope only when the first assignment is available there.

Seating in class:

- **Please sit in a consistent area** of the classroom each day. This will allow for the pedagogical methods planned for this class to help your learning.

Communicable Disease Prevention Framework

Communicable disease prevention outlines how Public Health, UBC and individuals can work together to prevent the spread of communicable disease. It is intended to educate members of the campus community on such measures so that we all better understand the layers of protection.

For more information please visit: <https://srs.ubc.ca/health-safety/safety-programs/communicable-disease-prevention-framework/>

If you do miss class because of illness or any other reason:

- Make a connection early in the term to another student or a group of students in the class. You can help each other by sharing notes. If you don't yet know anyone in the class, post on the discussion forum (Piazza) to connect with other students.
- Consult the class resources on Canvas.
- Use the online discussion forum (Piazza) for help.
- Come to online office hours (instructor and TAs) to contact us and discuss.

Academic Integrity: Class Policies on Exams and Assignments

Exams:

- Exams are in-person

Assignments/Canvas quizzes/WeBWork/Labs:

- Discussion of ideas learned in class is encouraged (with other students, TAs or the instructor). This helps the learning process. But individual work turned in by each student should be your own work. Do not copy or paraphrase solutions from other students or from other sources. Do Not provide your solutions to another student. Failure to comply with these rules will result in an automatic 0 for your work, and additional academic penalties.

What is academic integrity?

Academic endeavours are founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not copy, cheat, or mislead others about what is your work; nor should you help others to do the same. For example, it is prohibited to: share your past assignments and answers with other students; completing an assignment as a group when an instructor has not expressly given permission; or spread information through word of mouth, social media, websites, or other channels that subverts the fair evaluation of a class exercise, or assessment.

What happens when academic integrity is breached?

Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) includes any conduct by which a student gains or attempts to gain an unfair academic advantage or benefit thereby compromising the integrity of the academic process, or helping or attempting to help another person commit an act of academic misconduct or gain, or attempt to gain, an unfair academic advantage. Academic misconduct leads to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or exam and more serious consequences may apply if the matter is referred for consideration for academic discipline. Careful records are kept to monitor and prevent recurrences. Any instance of cheating or taking credit for someone else's work, whether intentionally or unintentionally, can and often will result in at minimum a grade of zero for the assignment, and these cases will be reported to the Head of the Department of Statistics and Associate Dean Students of the Faculty of Science.

What should I know about sharing course materials?

We are working hard to provide all the materials you need to succeed in this course. In return, please respect our work. All assignment instructions, quiz questions and answers, discussion questions, announcements, PowerPoint slides, audio/video recordings, Canvas modules, and any other materials provided to you by the Teaching Team or in the textbook are for use in this course by students currently enrolled [course/section]. It is unacceptable to share any of these materials beyond our course, including by posting on file-sharing websites (e.g., CourseHero, Google Docs). It is unacceptable to copy and paste sentences from the textbook (e.g., definitions) into

for-profit software (e.g., Quizlet) for use in studying. Respect the Teaching Team and textbook authors' intellectual property, and follow [copyright law](#).

Reach Out for Success

- University students often encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Discuss your situation with your instructor or an academic advisor. Learn about how you can plan for success at: www.students.ubc.ca
- For help addressing mental or physical health concerns, including seeing a UBC counsellor or doctor, visit: <https://students.ubc.ca/health-wellness>

University Values and Policies

Resources to support student success

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles, but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access, including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated, nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious observances. UBC values academic honesty, and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others, and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions.

Details of the policies and how to access support are available on the UBC [the UBC Senate website](#)

Learning analytics

Learning analytics includes the collection and analysis of data about learners to improve teaching and learning. This course will be using Canvas, Microsoft Teams, and Zoom, which capture data about your activity and provide information that can be used to improve the quality of teaching and learning. In this course, your instructor and TA may use analytics data to view overall class progress, and track individual students' progress in order to assess participation in the course.

Use of Generative AI Tools

The use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (“Gen AI”) tools is strictly prohibited in all course assessments unless explicitly stated otherwise by the instructors in this course. This includes ChatGPT and other artificial intelligence tools and programs. Gen AI is not to be used to generate text or code throughout this course, and doing so is a form of academic misconduct.

Note:

- Please check the Canvas course page regularly.
- No late submission (WebWork/Written Assignments/Labs/Exams) will be accepted.
- You are allowed to discuss (give hints) WebWork/ Written Assignment questions with other students via Piazza discussion board. But DO NOT post answers in the Piazza page.
- Grades change request forms (for midterm and assignments) should be submitted **within one week after grade released/post solution on canvas page**. Remarking request should only be raised when you are sure that the markers have made a mistake in marking your paper when you compare your paper with marking scheme. Remarking is not meant to give students a way to ask for more marks

- I will not be able to answer your questions about assignment problems/text book problems/ class note examples etc. by emails. I hope you can understand that as there are around 600 students in my classes in this term and how hard to explain answers to your questions through emails. Please use **office hours** and **Piazza Discussions** for those kinds of questions. Please use the instructor email only for personal matters (eg. if you are going to miss the midterm exam due to some unavoidable circumstance etc. or some other important matter related to the course) that you would want to discuss with the instructor. We are always there to help you during our (TAs and Instructor) office hours.

Land acknowledgement: *We acknowledge that the UBC Vancouver campus is situated within the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the x^wməθk^wəy^əm (Musqueam).*

STAT 251 - Introductory Probability and Statistics

Winter Term: 1 (September to December 2026)

Schedule: This is a tentative lecture schedule and may be subject to change. Any updates will be announced in class and/or posted on Canvas course page

Week	Dates	Lectures	WeBWork	Labs
1	Sep 8 – Sep 11	Ch 1	No WW	No Labs
2	Sep 14 – Sep 18	Ch 1, 3	No WW	Lab 0 (self study) No actual Lab class
3	Sep 21 – Sep 25	Ch 3, 4	WW 1	Lab 1
4	Sep 28 – Oct 2	Ch 4	WW 2	No Labs
5	Oct 5 – Oct 9	Ch 4, 5	WW 3	Lab 2
6	Oct 12 – Oct 16	Ch 5, 6	WW 4	Lab 3
7	Oct 19 – Oct 23	Ch 6 Written Assignment 1 due on Oct 24 (Saturday)	WW 5	Lab 4
8	Oct 26 – Oct 30	Ch 6, 7 Midterm Friday, Oct 30	No WW	No Labs
9	Nov 2 – Nov 6	Ch 7, 8	WW 6	Lab 5
10	Nov 9 – Nov 13	Ch 8 Midterm Break: Nov 9 -11	No WW	No Labs
11	Nov 16 – Nov 20	Ch 8	WW 7	Lab 6
12	Nov 23 – Nov 27	Ch 8, 10	WW 8	Lab 7
13	Nov 30 – Dec 4	Ch 10, 2-11 Written Assignment 2 due on Dec 2 (Wednesday)	WW 9	Lab 8
14	Dec 7 (Monday) (last day of classes)	Ch 2-11	WW 10	
	Dec 11 - 22	Final Exam Period		

- Written assignments are published at least 10 days prior to the due date
- Most of the WeBWork assignments are due on Tuesdays. Please access WeBWorks to see exact due dates.