

Accreditation of degree programs

6.1 The Qualification

A University may apply to the Council to have a specified degree program accredited by the Society for a period of 3 years. Graduates who complete such a degree program in the specified years, who are members of the Society and who make application, are entitled to the qualification of Graduate Statistician. Accredited degree courses are entitled to include the following wording in their promotional and other material:

"Students who graduate from this degree program will, on joining the Statistical Society of Australia, be automatically entitled to accreditation as a Graduate Statistician."

The University has an obligation to notify the Society if any material changes are made to the degree program during that period of 3 years. Accreditation may be withdrawn if the Society believes that the program no longer meets the required standard.

6.2 Requirements for Qualification

Degree programs which qualify for Accreditation shall meet the following requirements or be of equivalent standing:

1. All students should be required to undertake a minimum of 25% of a year's study in Statistics in total at second year level, and a minimum of 50% of a year's study in Statistics at third year level.
2. All students should be required to undertake units which involve statistical inference, data analysis, statistical communication skills and the use of a statistical package.
3. All students should be required to take several units covering material from the following list: probability and distribution theory, linear models, design of experiments, sampling methods, multivariate analysis, analysis of categorical data, time series, survival analysis, statistical consulting, statistical graphics, databases.

Applications should include photocopies of the formal University documents which provide the detailed degree requirements and should, in a separate document, include the following information:

1. the percentage of Statistics which is compulsory at each year level of the program, with an identification of those subjects and their content,
2. the percentage of Statistics which is available for students to undertake at each level of the program,
3. the number of "points" in each subject and the total number of points required in each year of the program,
4. the staff available to teach in the program and their qualifications.

It is noted that in some cases, a degree program with a Major in Statistics may not be considered sufficient but an Honours degree from the same program

might qualify.

6.3 Ratification

The Accreditation Committee is responsible to Council. Committee recommendations on applications for accreditation of degree programs must be ratified by the Executive, on behalf of Council, who will either accept the Committee's recommendations or return them to the Committee for reconsideration. In the latter case, the Executive shall provide reasons for its request for reconsideration. Council shall notify all applicants of the outcome of their application. In the case of unsuccessful applications a copy of the Accreditation Committee's report will be sent to the applicant. In the case of successful applications Council shall also notify the relevant Branch.

6.4 Appeals

An appeal against an unsuccessful application for accreditation may only be made on the basis of procedural error. An applicant has four weeks from the date of receipt of notification of the unsuccessful application to lodge an appeal with the Society Secretary. The appeals will be considered by the Executive of the Society. Their decision will be final.

6.5 Maintenance of Accredited Qualification

Universities with accredited degree programs shall re-apply to the Society every three years, by either completing a new application or by providing a summary of any changes made to the degree program since the previous accreditation.

6.6 Fees

A non-refundable application fee shall accompany each application for accreditation of a course. A fee shall also be payable for reaccreditation on the expiry of each three year period of accreditation. These fees shall be determined by the Executive Committee on the recommendation of the Accreditation Committee.

6.7 Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality

The Accreditation Committee has established procedures where the applying University may consider that there is a potential for conflict of interest. In such a case, the University may nominate up to two members of the Committee who should not evaluate the material.

Applications and maintenance reports may be accessed by the Committee during considerations but are stored confidentially. In the case of an appeal, the Executive of the Society may also access the papers relevant to the appeal.