Education

- **High School**
  - Study statistics, mathematics, science, computer science, and English

- **College**
  - Major in statistics, applied mathematics, or a closely related field (i.e. epidemiology, engineering)

- **Post-Graduate**
  - Many career fields require a Master’s degree or PhD in a specialized statistical field

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What Can I Do With A Degree in Statistics?

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Consulting

Independent statistical consultants work on many of the same projects as other statisticians, but they usually are hired on a temporary basis to solve a specific problem that requires statistical expertise not available within the hiring company. Since the field of statistics is so broad, many statistical consultants specialize in some area, such as quality improvement or pharmaceuticals. Consultants may be hired with grant money to work on short-term projects in medicine, agriculture, engineering, or business.

“I love that statistics is very multidisciplinary. It involves problem solving in a group environment and it involves many skills and talents. I love the ability to be a mathematician, computer scientist, teacher, quizmaster, sleuth, and devil’s advocate all rolled into one.”

Linda Quinn, Private Industrial Consultant

Law

Statistics are becoming more important as court cases address increasingly complex problems. Sometimes the statistician analyzes data that can help the jury or judge decide whether someone is guilty of a crime or must pay damages for causing injuries. Court cases involving statistical analyses include DNA testing, salary discrepancies, consumer surveys, and disease clusters.

Ecology

Statisticians play a major role in addressing questions about the Earth’s natural environment, including animal populations, agricultural protections, and fertilizer and pesticide safety. Most states employ wildlife statisticians. Statisticians are employed by state and federal environmental agencies, as well as companies that collect environmental data. Increasingly, companies need statisticians to help assess how a new product or plant will affect the surrounding environment. Scientific researchers also work with statisticians, often at universities, to design experiments that will answer basic questions about the environment.

Agriculture

Statisticians have teamed up with experts in agriculture to study a number of challenging questions, including chemical pesticides, hydrogeology, veterinary sciences, genetics, and crop management. Statisticians are involved in studies ranging from small laboratory experiments to large projects conducted over many hundreds or thousands of square miles. They work on data from the smallest scale of organism to plants, insects, animals, and humans. They also work with scientists from fields such as bacteriology, genetics, biochemistry, dairy science, environmental studies, entomology, plant sciences, rural sociology, veterinary medicine, wildlife, and ecology.

For more information, check out http://www.statistics2013.org/