

Applied Honors Statistics: STAT4110H

This is the second Statistics course offered by our department for students enrolled in the honors program. I am fortunate to work with motivated students who use investigative learning to explore statistical concepts as they relate to case studies and everyday decision making. This course is writing intensive and includes team projects throughout the semester. Communication skills are emphasized not only through the writing component but with oral presentations. Team building is promoted through the group interaction.

One popular investigation is an experimental design activity – constructing and flying two different types of paper airplanes. The students formulate several statistical questions they would like to answer regarding the paper airplanes and design how to conduct the experiment. Then the planes are flown and data is collected. The students, working together in small groups, analyze the data and prepare a written report.



Most students enroll in this course in preparation for either further coursework in statistics or to prepare for post undergraduate studies (graduate school, medical school, law school, or pharmacy school.) Students often contact me a few years after this course to tell me how this was one of the most beneficial courses in their studies. Often students decide to become statistics minors or double major in statistics after taking this course. Over the years, several of these students have gone on to pursue graduate degrees in statistics.

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