BIOS 701: PhD Comprehensive Examination Part B
Applied Examination

Instructors: The development, conduct, and grading of the PhD comprehensive examination fall under the mandate of the Biostatistics PhD Comprehensive Examination Committee.

Objectives: The objective of the PhD comprehensive examination is to assess a student's ability to integrate knowledge of methodological and applied statistics/biostatistics

Timing: The Biostatistics PhD Comprehensive Examination Part B consists of a one-week take-home applied statistics exam followed by an oral exam designed to test data analysis and report-writing skills. The applied statistics exam will typically be held in May, after the PhD Comprehensive Examination Part A.

Assessment:
This exam will consist of a one-week take-home applied statistics problem. Students are given a data analysis problem and have one week to produce a written report on their analysis and results. The report should be 15-20 pages in length, including figures, tables, and references. Consultation of any written source is allowed, but students are not allowed to discuss their analysis or results with anyone until after the entire exam period (including the oral component) is completed.

Students are scheduled for an oral examination by the graders, typically 3-4 days after submitting the written report. In the oral portion of the exam, the students will have a chance to make clarifications, defend choices, and answer any questions posed.

The passing grade on the exam is 65%. If a student fails the exam, he/she will be permitted to retake the exam in May of the following year. A student may only retake the PhD Comprehensive Examination Part B once. Students who have taken and failed the comprehensive exam on two occasions will be asked to withdraw from the Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Occupational Health.

Prerequisites: Enrolment in the Biostatistics PhD program. Students are reminded to become familiar with the PhD Comprehensive Examination Guidelines.