

Statistician

Design the study, run the numbers, and say honestly how sure you are. One of the best paid math jobs that is not finance.

TYPICAL PAY

\$105,650

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$64k to \$174k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

4 to 6 years

after high school

DEMAND

Very high

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Drug companies, universities, federal agencies, tech firms, hospi...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Take the hardest math available, right through calculus, plus a statistics class if your school offers one. Learn a bit of programming.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 4 years
Statistics, mathematics, economics or a science with a heavy quantitative load. Calculus, linear algebra and probability are the core.
- 3 Get your hands on real data** Summers
A summer research position, a campus job cleaning survey data, or an internship at an agency or a company. This is what separates applicants.
- 4 Master's degree in statistics or biostatistics** 1 to 2 years
One to two years. This is the usual entry ticket for the job title statistician.
- 5 Or a PhD** 4 to 6 years
Four to six funded years. Needed for university research, methods development and the most senior industry roles.

Pros and cons

- + Strong pay without going into finance or medicine
- + Work that genuinely changes decisions about health and policy
- + Desk based, remote friendly and easy on the body
- Most real jobs want a master's degree, so it is 6 years
- A lot of the work is cleaning messy data, not elegant math
- People want a confident answer and your job is to add caveats

Good to know

The census is a statistics problem

The Census Bureau employs statisticians year round, not just every ten years. Counting a country of hundreds of millions of people means estimating who was missed, and that estimate decides how congress...

A drug does not exist until a statistician signs off

Before a new medicine can be approved in the United States, its clinical trial has to be designed and analysed to a statistical standard set in advance. The analysis plan is written and locked before anyone...

Optional boosts

R and Python. SQL (the language used to pull data out of databases). Clinical trial design. Causal inference.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Statisticians
American Statistical Association
University of California, Berkeley: Department of Statistics
USAJOBS, the official federal hiring site

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/statistician>



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