

To: Incoming MPP and MPAP Students
From: Julia Sass Rubin, Public Policy Program Director
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Re: Fall 2022 Quantitative Methods Placement Examination

This memo will acquaint you with the examination process for Basic Quantitative Methods that will take place in early September via ZOOM. Additional information will be shared soon about how to sign up.

The methods requirements for the MPP and MPAP degrees are:

- **MPAP** requires two methods courses: Basic Quantitative Methods (34:633:521) and Research Design (34:833:530).
- **MPP** requires three methods courses: Basic Quantitative Methods (34:633:521), Research Design (34:833:530), and Applied Multivariate Methods (34:833:525).

Students who have had a prior course in applied descriptive and inferential statistics may place out of Basic Quantitative Methods by passing an exam similar to the final exam for the course. Those who place out may substitute a more advanced methods course in place of Basic Quantitative Methods. The substitute course may be selected from the wide range of methods offerings in both the Policy and Planning Programs. [This flow chart](#) shows all of the Bloustein methods courses, for your course planning purposes.

The placement exam will be closed book and will consist of 1) multiple choice questions that test your understanding of concepts, 2) computational problems and interpretation of statistical output from STATA. Familiarity with any statistical software package should be sufficient to interpret the output.

Topics on the exam will include: measures of central tendency (mean, median, mode) and dispersion (range, variance, standard deviation), histograms and other graphical techniques, normal curve, sampling distributions, parameter estimation, hypothesis testing (one and two sample statistical tests, Chi-square test, Analysis of Variance), measures of association, and simple and multiple regression.

To prepare, please review chapters 1-13 and chapter 15 of the book *Statistics: A Tool for Social Research*. Wadsworth Cengage Learning. 10th edition by Joseph F. Healey. At exam time, you will receive statistical tables (See appendices A, B, C, and D from the 10th edition of the text book) as well as a formula sheet with the formulas from the inside front and back covers of the textbook.

You should receive feedback on your placement exam performance within the first 10 days of classes. In the meantime, please register for and attend a Basic Quantitative Methods class and also ask the professor for the course you would take if you pass the placement exam to allow you to sit in for the first few weeks.

We encourage you to take the placement exam even if you took statistics some time ago. You cannot fail this exam because it is used for diagnostic purposes and does not appear on any university transcript. At worst, you would end up having to take Basic Quantitative Methods.