

## **BIOS 700: PhD Comprehensive Examination Part A Theoretical Statistics**

**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 this component of the PhD comprehensive examination is to assess a student's ability to integrate knowledge of theoretical statistics/biostatistics.

**Timing:** The Biostatistics PhD Comprehensive Examination Part A consists of a statistical theory exam, to be held in May of each year. The examination is a four-hour in-class exam written concurrently with the statistical theory exam in the department of Mathematics and Statistics.

**Assessment:**

Students will be given 9 questions of which they must complete 6 of their choice. The questions will be of equal weight, and correspond to the material in MATH-556/557 as noted in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics' syllabus for the Theory Paper: Mathematical Statistics (<http://www.math.mcgill.ca/node/423>). Please note that Biostatistics students are **not** required to answer questions from Part P (probability) of the exam. The duration of the exam is 4 hours.

The passing grade is 65%. If a student fails the exam in May, he/she will be permitted to retake this component of the examination in August of that year or May of the following year. Students may retake the examination once; two failures constitute a failing grade for the course. 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.