

Course analysis (course evaluation)

Course code 5MT013	Course title Biostatistics	Credits 6
Semester (VT/HT-yr) HT-2024	Dates 2024-12-02 – 2025-01-17	

Course Director Keith Humphreys	Examiner Keith Humphreys
Teachers in charge of different parts of the course Stephen Nash, Keith Humphreys, Nghia Vu, Elisavet Syriopoulou	Other participating teachers Robert Karlsson

Number of registered students at the 3-week check 34	Number passed at final course day 32	Response frequency course valuation survey 19/34 (56%)
Other methods for student influence (in addition to the final course valuation/survey) Course council with 11 students in attendance		
Feedback reporting of the course evaluation results to the students Students have received a summary		

Note that...

The analysis should together with a summarising quantitative summary of the students' course evaluation) be communicated to the education committee at the department responsible for the course and for programme courses also to the programme coordinating committee.

1. Description of any changes implemented since the previous course occasion based on the views of former students

Several changes were made to the written assignment with the intention of helping the students find code introduced in the computer labs, for re-using for their data analysis.

The journal club was changed with the intention that students would learn more about the application of statistical methods in papers presenting analyses of complex molecular data. Rather than evaluating an entire research paper, groups were asked to focus on one or two specific analyses, and a new session where teachers were available to help students prepare their presentation was introduced.

2. Brief summary of the students' evaluation of the course

(Based on the students' quantitative responses to the course valuation and key views from free text responses. Quantitative summary and any graphs are attached.)

The students expressed that they felt that they had developed new and valuable skills and had, overall, an impression of the course that was positive.

3. The Course Director's reflections on the implementation and results of the course

Strengths of the course:

The course covered the basic statistical methods that the students will meet in other parts of the program. As with last year, the repeated use of a precision medicine course data set for students to



work on throughout, in labs and the assignment, works well. The balance of lectures and labs work well.

Weaknesses of the course:

There is little time for the students to reflect on/absorb the material. Except for the lab sessions, there is little time for feedback to the students.

3. Other views

The teachers feel that the material is pitched at roughly the right level. The feeling that we cover too many topics in too short a time remains, but without cutting topics that are important to the student's training in this field, it is unclear to us how this can be resolved, and as with the previous year, several of the students expressed that they were very happy to get exposure to the range of topics covered.

4. Course Director's conclusions and any suggestions for changes

(If changes are suggested, state who is responsible for implementing them and provide a schedule.)

For the coming course occasion, we will hand out the assignment much earlier in the course and changes will be made to the assignment to make it clearer how to adapt code used in lab exercises for analysing data in the assignments. The two teachers working with the assignment (NV,KH) will take responsibility for this.

For the course introduction we will make changes with the intention of improving the overview of the methods covered in the course (KH).

Additional changes will be made to the journal club, with the intention of improving feedback (all teachers will take part in developing this).

Slides will be reviewed considering the students detailed suggestions for improvement of the course, in the course evaluation (all teachers).

Appendices: