

BIOL 2415_002, Statistics in Biology & Medicine (4.0 Credits)
Texas A&M University—San Antonio
Spring 2025

Contact Information

Instructor: Ashley Aguilar, M.Sc.

Office: STEM 311- My desk is right in front of office 311F

E-mail: aaguilar2@tamusa.edu

Preferred Contact Method: E-mail: aaguilar2@tamusa.edu

Do not use “blackboard messenger”

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:30AM – 1:30PM; before/after class; by appointment; feel free to email me!

General Information on Lecture Sections

Prerequisites: BIOL 1106, BIOL 1107, BIOL 1306, BIOL1307, MATH 1314

Lecture Location for Section 002: MWF 2:00PM- 2:50 PM; SciTech 227

General Information on Lab Sections

Lab Instructor: Ashley Aguilar, M.Sc.

Lab Location for Section 03L: M- 11:00am - 1:45pm; SciTech 122

Lab Instructor: Md. Imran Hasan; Email: mhasa02@jaguar.tamu.edu

Lab Location for Section 04L: T- 11:00am - 1:45pm; CAB 302

Lab Location for Section 01L: TH- 11:00am - 1:45pm; CAB 307

If you have lab specific questions contact your lab instructor.

Lecture Textbook:

Whitlock MC, Schluter D. 2020. *The Analysis of Biological Data, 3rd Edition*. MacMillan Learning.

Online Resources: I will do my best to make course materials available online in a timely fashion. My goal is to have in-class materials (PowerPoint slides, etc.) posted within 24 hours of completion of the class in which the material was covered.

Other Required Materials:

- **Lap top or desk top computer**
 - Lectures will be posted on Blackboard prior to the scheduled lecture
 - Announcements regarding lectures, labs, assignments, quizzes, and grading will be posted on Blackboard
 - Grades for individual assignments/labs etc... will be posted on Blackboard as we go along.
- I would **highly suggest** finding a way to take notes directly on the powerpoint documents while I am lecturing. Either take notes directly on a print-out, a tablet with a stylus, or any other electronic tool. Being able to draw arrows, or circle words, and take notes in the margins of the actual slide will help you link your notes directly to the slide I used to lecture.

Course Description: This course explores the principles of probability, exploratory data analysis, experimental design and common inferential statistical techniques used in the biological and medical sciences. Emphasis is placed on the applications of these methods and practical considerations associated with their proper use. A major focus of the laboratory portion of the course is using the R statistical computing environment for methodological implementation and generation of scientific figures.

Objectives: To provide students with a sound foundation in applied statistical reasoning. Specifically, during the course of and/or upon completing BIOL 2415, students should:

- (1) Deepen their abilities to engage in population-level thinking and appreciate the importance of sampling in drawing inferences about populations
- (2) Develop an appreciation for the roles of probability theory and probability distributions in statistical analysis and quantitative reasoning
- (3) Become familiar with the basic tenets of sound experimental design
- (4) Develop an understanding of the concepts of statistical error and power
- (5) Become competent with a variety of commonly used parametric and non-parametric inferential statistics
- (6) Deepen their appreciations for the concept of statistical association and how such associations are quantified
- (7) Learn the principles of model criticism and how to assess whether data meet the assumptions of a variety of statistical tests and modeling approaches
- (8) Develop the ability to choose and defend which statistical procedure among the procedures explored during the course is most appropriate for a particular dataset/experimental design
- (9) Develop basic statistical computing skills, including the ability to make customized publication quality graphics

Evaluation & Course Structure

Grade Components from Lecture:

Assignment	Points	Total
Exam	200 pts × 4 Exams	800 pts
Final Project	200 pts	200 pts
Homework	25 pts × 8 HWs	200 pts
		1200 pts

Bonus points:

Participation in the course by answering questions during the lecture will make you eligible for a boost to your final grade. Throughout the semester, I will select some of the in-class questions to count towards the boost. If you answer **at least 10** of the selected questions **correctly**, you will receive an additional 10 bonus points on your final grade.

Completing the pre-test during the first full week of the course, independent of your score, will make you eligible to take the post-test at the end of the semester.

For each correct response on the post-test given at the end of the semester you will also receive an additional bonus point. (Note: These bonus points **do not** count towards the 10 needed from the in-class lecture questions)

The maximum number of in class bonus points that you can accumulate is **25**.

Grade Components for Lab:

Assignment	Points	Total
R Code Submission	10 pts x 7 Labs	70 pts
Lab Assignment	25 pts × 7 Labs	175 pts
		245 pts

Lecture and Lab Grade are combined for your Final Grade.

The lecture portion of the course will account for 75% of your final grade and the lab component will account for the other 25%

For example, if you received 900 pts in lecture and 175 pts in the lab your final grade calculation would be:

$$0.75 \times (900/1200) + 0.25 \times (175/245) = 0.741$$

Grades will be assigned at the end of the term based on the percentage of points earned, where 90% = A, 80% = B, 70% = C, and 60% = D.

Before you email me, check if your question is answered by the syllabus or the schedule!

Email Etiquette: When contacting me **via email you must include the name of the course in the subject line and the section you are in.** Example:

To: aaguilar2@tamusa.edu

Subject: Question about Stat in Bio. Section 1

Hi Ashley,

My name is “your name here” and I was wondering if Chapter 4 material will be on Exam 2.
Best,

“your name here”

If you have lab specific questions contact your lab instructor

Policy on Assignments and Exam Questions Involving Written Communication: The ability to write clearly is a fundamental skill that all educated people, including scientists, should have. While I will not deduct points for grammar and spelling per se, if your writing is muddled to the point that the content of your answer is unclear, you will lose points. While you are always free to ask why points were deducted (after class), subsequent clarification of your answer via verbal conversation or email will not result in the restoration of deducted points to your grade, as grades must be based upon the answer that was turned in at the time that the assignment was due.

Artificial Intelligence Policy for BIOL 2415

There are situations and contexts within this course where you may be asked to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools to explore how they can be used. Outside of those circumstances, you should not use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any student work (assignments, activities, discussion responses, etc.) that is part of your evaluation in this course. Any student work submitted using AI tools should clearly indicate with attribution what work is the student’s work and what part is generated by the AI. In such cases, no more than 25% of the student work should be generated by AI. If any part of this is confusing or uncertain, students should reach out to their instructor for clarification before submitting work for grading. Use of AI-generated content without the instructor’s permission and/or proper attribution in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio’s standards of academic integrity.

For this course, students are permitted to use AI-generators for lab assignments to assist with coding if needed. Copying and pasting AI-generated responses for any lecture assignments, including homework assignments, is plagiarism and will result in an automatic 0 for each assignment. More than one occurrence will result in the reporting of academic dishonesty.

NOTE: Guidance for how to cite AI-generators, like ChatGPT, can be found here <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>

Policy on Grade Appeals: We all make errors, and I’m no different. If you feel that I am in error upon receiving a grade for an exam or assignment, let me know after class, or during an office visit. If your concern warrants further consideration, I may ask you for a written explanation of why you think your answer is correct and/or why my grading is overly harsh. Please note that a request for you to elaborate verbally or in writing does not guarantee that points will be restored to your grade.

Policy on Late Assignments & Making Up Exams: Please complete exams and other assignments by the dates when they are due. Should extenuating circumstances arise that prevent

you from taking or turning in an exam or assignment at the normal time, I may ask you to present verifiable documentation of the circumstances. Failure to produce such documentation may result in refusal to accept your late exam or assignment and a grade of '0'. Whenever possible, let me know ahead of time if you are going to be tardy with an exam or assignment.

Policy on Receiving an 'Incomplete': If you are ill or otherwise unable to attend class for an extended period, please let me know what is going on as soon as possible, so that we can develop a plan that will enable you to complete the course. Students with extended absences who have not contacted me by the end of the semester will receive a grade of '0' for all incomplete/missing work.

Miscellaneous Policies

Attendance Policy: Attendance and participation are compulsory. However, videos of our lecture and lab sessions will be available through Blackboard Collaborate Ultra for you to view in the event that asynchronous attendance and participation are necessary.

Learning Environment: Please be punctual. Late entry into lecture and lab is disruptive to your fellow students and me. I will do my best to facilitate learning by being respectful of you and your time. I expect for you to return the favor. Talking, texting, e-mailing, preparing for other courses, etc. during class is not appropriate. I understand that emergencies occur, so if you are in the midst of a situation that may require your attention during class, please let me know ahead of time and set your phone to vibrate, so that you will cause a minimal disturbance.

If I am confusing or unclear, let me know. You should not hesitate to ask questions. If a concept is unclear to you, odds are other students in the class are struggling with the concept as well

University Policies

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

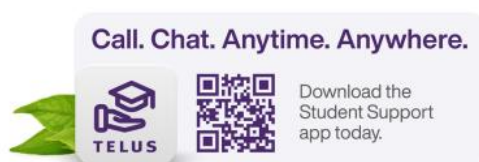
Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2').

Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer to peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/emergency-management/>.

Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend by the census date will have their financial aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester, a Care report will be submitted, and you will possibly be dropped from the class. Your financial aid may have to be recalculated and a portion of your federal aid may have to be returned to the DoE.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations,

and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/>.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE referral (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots’ Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student’s GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as “F” grades and will impact the student’s GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units. Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form

of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf>) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-integrity.html>).

Important Dates:

January 20	MLK, Jr. Day Holiday- No classes
January 21	First day of class
March 10- 15	Spring Break – No classes
April 21	Last day to drop with an automatic “W”
April 28	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University
April 18	Study Day – No classes
May 5	Last day of classes
May 6	Study Day – No classes
May 7-13	Final exams

The complete academic calendar is available online:
<https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academic-calendar/index.html>