

Experimental Design and Quantitative Tools for Biologists

(JNL 208 credits 2:0:0)

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1. Introduction to Biostatistics :

- a. History of the field of statistical analyses
- b. Types of data
- c. How to represent data - types of graphs,
- d. Tips for sampling and how to avoid sampling bias
- e. Frequency distributions.

2. Description of data and uncertainty:

- a. Variation
- b. Measures of central tendency: mean, median, mode,
- c. Measures of spread: standard deviation, standard error of the mean, interquartile range,
- d. Proportions, confidence intervals, types of errors.

3. Hypothesis Testing:

- a. Introduction to probability theory, the probability distribution, conditional probability and Bayes' theorem,
- b. The null hypothesis – setting up null and alternative hypotheses
- c. p -value, binomial distribution,
- d. Student's t -test, One- and Two-Way Analysis of Variance, Mann-Whitney U test, Wilcoxon Signed-Rank Test, Kruskal-Wallis test,
- e. Post-hoc tests: Tukey, Bonferroni, Dunnet.
- f. Analysis of categorical data: Chi-Square tests, Fisher's exact test.

4. Correlation and Regression: Linear correlation coefficient, Spearman's Rank Correlation, testing correlation, linear regression, Coefficient of determination.

5. Basics of Experimental Design: Confounding variables, artifacts, controls, blinding, replication, power analysis.

References / Textbooks : Analysis of Biological Data by Michael Whitlock and Dolph Schluter, Biostatistical Analysis by Jerrold Zar. Statistics for terrified biologists by Helmut van Emden