Department of Statistics
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Dear

Congratulations! The Admissions Committee of the Department of Statistics has recommended to the Dean of the Graduate Division that you be admitted to our M.A. program. We are very impressed by both your academic achievements and your potential.

You will join a group of about seventy MA and Ph.D. graduate students and twenty-five faculty and postdocs who are engaged in research endeavors in applied statistics, theoretical statistics, and probability. The Department of Statistics at Berkeley has the broadest range of faculty research interests of any statistics department in the world, and our graduate program has long been ranked as one of the top in the nation in the reports published by the National Research Council.

Our Master's in Statistics has a history of training students well for careers in applied statistics. However, the data flood and the simultaneous explosion of computational resources in the last decade have dramatically increased the scope of the statistician. We have enhanced our Master's program to reflect these changes. Our M.A. degree now has a professional training component in addition to its existing academic one, similar to Berkeley's graduate degrees in fields such as Business and Law.

We are sure you will find Berkeley's intellectual and natural environments quite invigorating and that this will be a rewarding place for you to become a statistician. We very much look forward to seeing you here next fall.

Duration: Students are expected to be fulltime members of the program and to complete the program in one academic year. This will make them eligible for employment or for Ph.D. programs a year earlier than our former program allowed. Requests for longer completion time may be considered in exceptional cases.

Contents: In the first semester, all students will take intensive graduate courses in probability, theoretical statistics, and statistical computing; the typical courses are STAT 201A, 201B and 243. In the second semester, students will take an advanced course in modern applied statistics (STAT 230), an elective, and a capstone course. The capstone will consist of a team-based learning experience that will give students the opportunity to work on a real-world problem and carry out a substantial data analysis project. It will culminate with a written report and an oral presentation of findings. The elective will depend on the students' interest and will be decided in consultation with advisers.