

Constitution of “UTM STATISTICS CLUB”

1. Name

The official name of this recognized campus group is “UTM STATISTICS CLUB”

The acronym or abbreviation of this group is: UTMSTAC

2. Purpose and Objectives

The purpose, objectives, mission and/or mandate of organization is outlined here:

The purpose, objective, and mission of the Statistics Club is to cultivate a community where students explore and apply statistical thinking to real-world problems using the study of relations in data. Rather than focusing solely on mathematical formalism, the club emphasizes practical insights, critical reasoning, and creative approaches through analyzing data. Our club hopes to achieve this by workshops to study data (“Data Analyst Workshop” event), use the real world datasets to tell stories (“Data Storytelling Workshop” event), analyze data through games (“Probability Game Night” event), watch movies related to studying data (“Movie Night” event), learn about the study of data from experienced guest speakers (“Guest Speaker Series” event), and debunk claims (“Clickbait Claim test” event) in the real world using data, and debating about different topics and methods to study data (“Statistical Debate Series” event). Through hands-on workshops, and interactive discussions members learn to interpret information, uncover patterns, and make informed decisions across diverse contexts. Furthermore, the club also encourages reflection on the ethical considerations and the broader societal impact of statistics as a toolset. By combining learning, experimentation, and engagement, the Statistics Club provides an inclusive environment where students develop both technical skills and a flexible, problem-solving mindset applicable beyond the academic setting.

Our event descriptions are as follows:

- **Data Analysis Workshops:** Members work with various datasets to learn and apply different statistical methods in each event. For example, hypothesis test to check if the correlation coefficient is significantly different from 0, for a given dataset. Executives will encourage modern computational methods, (popular R and Python libraries), and work to explain the theory implemented by each command. Activities include predicting outcomes (e.g., NBA games), comparing real vs. cleaned data, detecting outliers, handling missing values, and preprocessing. The workshop also features an ethical lens, where participants uncover inconsistencies or biases in intentionally flawed datasets. The examples and also practice contexts to help the members learn data analysis.
- **Probability Game Night:** Executives will introduce members to select games to explore decision theory and probability. Examples include Monty Hall tournaments, Gambler’s Fallacy, and poker nights. Each session introduces a new game or twist, keeping the experience fresh and engaging while teaching probabilistic thinking and optimization strategies.

- Clickbait Claim Testing: Members analyze viral claims presented by executives (or proposed by popular vote) using publicly available data. Teams critically evaluate statements like “Eating X boosts Y by 300%,” uncover misleading interpretations, and practice applying statistics to real-world situations. The session emphasizes critical thinking, data literacy, and communicating findings. There will be many myths that the executives will debunk in each session.
- Guest Speaker Series: Alumni, professors, and industry professionals will share their experiences applying statistics in their fields. Members can ask questions, network, and learn practical applications of statistical thinking in careers, research, and industry projects. They will showcase an interactive presentation where they will discuss with the members, based on their own experiences. There will be time allotted for Q and A where members can ask them questions or solicit advice.
- Movie Nights: The club primarily screens films that illustrate statistics or data-driven decision-making. The event aims to promote club engagement, and interest.
- Data Storytelling Workshop: Members learn to analyze data, and communicate findings effectively through executive guided work periods. Each session focuses on a specific statistical concept (e.g., A/B testing or survival analysis) through a real-world case study. Participants transform raw findings into a narrative or story, connecting technical skills with clear communication following industry conventions and technologies (Jupyter Notebooks, GitHub project descriptions, etc.).
- Statistical Debate Series: Executives will split members into two or more teams based on their personal standings on controversial statistics methodologies. A debate will be hosted and moderated, where members will have a chance to argue for their position, in a safe environment. Example topics include “Is $p < 0.05$ enough?”, “Should we ban hypothesis testing?”, and “Frequentist vs Bayesian approaches.” All attending members will vote on the most convincing argument, promoting discussion, critical thinking, and exposure to different statistical perspectives. One topic will be discussed during each event.

3. Membership

Membership to the group is open to all registered students of the University of Toronto (referred to here as “student members”). Non-voting membership may be extended to interested staff, faculty, and alumni, or persons from outside the University (referred to here as “external members”).

Student members are permitted to run, nominate, and vote in elections and constitutional amendments. External members do not hold the aforementioned rights. All members must register with a designated executive by submitting their full name and a valid email address.

The membership fee will be \$ 0 per year.

Any member of the club may apply for a refund within one (1) month of becoming a member. No refunds are permitted 30 days after the election periods.

4. Executive List and Duties

The executive committee shall be comprised of five (5) elected officers. These include a President , a Financier, an Events Manager, a Communications Manager, an Officer of Moderation .

The President shall:

- Oversee the operations, management and success of the group
- Be the spokesperson for the group
- Hold signing officer authority along with the Financier for financial purposes
- Preside over board meetings as well as general meetings
- Ensure transition of office to the future Executives

Additional responsibilities may include:

- Maintain the clubs expenses with financier
- Plan, schedule and organize all events with executives
- Lead and host every event with other executives
- Oversee general member concerns in-person and online

Event Manager shall:

- Be Responsible for creating, planning or organizing the materials required for different events(including presentations slides)

Additional responsibilities may include:

- Coordinate about materials required for events with the president and financier
- Planning and hosting events with the president

Financier shall:

- directly manage the purchase of materials for events
- Ensure timely deliveries and coverage of fees.

Additional responsibilities may include:

- Planning and hosting events with the president

Officer of Moderation Shall:

- Be Responsible for maintaining respectful conditions during club discussions,
- Handle internal relations between members.
- Be in charge of keeping events on schedule, and contributing ideas to maintain the flow of discussions.

Additional responsibilities may include:

- Planning and hosting events with the president

Communications Manager shall:

- Be responsible for communicating club efforts to current and potential members, as well as maintain transparency between general and executive members
- Manage social media accounts to inform followers and members on upcoming events, announcements, and goals

Additional responsibilities may include:

- Planning and hosting events with the president

The group may appoint Directors or Coordinators for various committees such as social committee, publicity committee, and so on; however, such positions do not hold executive decision making authority.

Termination of Executives or General Members:

Any member of the club who commits an act negatively affecting the interests of the club and its members, including non-disclosure of a significant or continuing conflict of interest, may be given notice of removal.

The member up for removal shall have the right to defend his/her actions.

A two-thirds majority vote of the student members present in favor of removal is required. The member must have the right to an appeal before the general membership, and the majority vote of the general student membership will have the final say on the matter.

The member will be removed from the club's membership and will lose any privileges associated with being a member of the club.

Executive members are subject to the same termination or impeachment process and, as determined by the vote, may lose their executive position along with their membership to the group.

5. Elections

The executive committee shall strike the Elections Committee and appoint one (1) Senior Election Officer (SEO) from the general student membership on the committee to conduct and hold elections in March. All members of the Elections Committee shall be non-biased in the results of the election and shall be required to disclose any and all conflicts of interest in the election.

The SEO Election Officer shall accept nominations only from student members of the group for candidacy of executive positions from the general membership before the **beginning of March**. Candidates have to be members in good standing and be part of the group for at least one month prior to the nomination period.

The SEO shall select **three (3) election dates before March 30th for the voting period**. These dates will be announced in a **minimum of two (2) weeks prior to elections dates** and must fall on weekdays.

The SEO shall provide each student member with a paper ballot on the voting dates and ask the member to place their ballot in an enclosed box.

In preparation for a tie, the SEO shall select an executive from amongst the executive committee, to cast their ballot and seal it in an envelope. In the event of a tie for an executive position, one of the two Scrutinizers shall break the seal and count the ballot in order to break the tie.

After the election is over, the SEO shall count the ballots. The candidate with the most votes shall be elected to the position. The SEO shall submit a report of the results of the elections to the Executive Committee and general members.

Student members may not vote by proxy. External members may not nominate or vote in elections.

Only student members who have paid any applicable membership fees and have been a member in good standing for 30 days prior to election dates are eligible for voting.

Term of executive positions shall be from May 1st to April 30th.

6. Finances

The Treasurer shall keep records of all income and expenses. The Treasurer shall present the group's financial health at the annual general meetings. The Executive Committee will vote on expenditures of over \$100.00 by majority vote at an executive meeting.

The group's executive or members may not engage in activities that are essentially commercial in nature. This is not intended to preclude the collection of membership fees to cover the expenses of the group, or of charges for specific activities, programs or events, or to prohibit groups from engaging in legitimate fundraising. However, the group will not have as a major activity a function that makes it an on-campus part of a commercial organization, will not provide services and goods at a profit when that profit is used for purposes other than those of the organization, and will not pay salaries to some or all of its officers.

7. Meetings

A) Annual General Meetings (AGMs):

The group shall hold general meetings at least twice per year, i.e. once per academic term.

The Executive Committee will announce these dates two (2) weeks prior to holding the meetings. These meetings are intended to go over the group's annual activity plan, financial health and propose or vote on constitutional amendments, if any. Motions will require 2/3 majority of student members in attendance for a vote to be cast. The motion with the most votes will be passed.

b) Executive Meetings:

The executive committee shall meet on a monthly basis where date and times are to be set by an executive. The quorum of executive meetings shall be 50%+1 of executives.

8. Amendments

Any student member may propose and vote on amendments to this constitution. The Executive Committee will administer the process of having amendments discussed at general meetings.

Constitutional amendments shall require a 2/3 majority to be passed at Annual General Meetings by student members in attendance.

The Executive Committee shall formally adopt the new constitution and submit the revised constitution to the respective University offices (i.e. Centre for Student Engagement, etc) within two (2) weeks of its approval by the general student membership.