

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

COURSE BASICS

Course Number: STAT 2480: CRN# 16592, 17411, 17412
Course Title: Elementary Statistical Methods
Credit Hours: 4
Term: Fall 2025
Meeting and Location: Online - The course is entirely online via Blackboard
Prerequisite Courses: One of 1320, 1508, 1411, TCCN 1314, or equivalent

Instructor Information

Instructor: Christy Mielke
Office Location: Online Only-Zoom meeting room link on Blackboard

Contact

Instructor e-mail: chmielke@utep.edu
Emergency Contact: (915)747-5761 (Math Department)
Course coordinator: Ori Rosen orosen@utep.edu
Math Department: mathdept@utep.edu

COURSE COMMUNICATION:

How we will stay in contact with each other:

Because this is an online class, we won't see each other in the ways you may be accustomed to: during class time, small group meetings, and office hours. However, there are several ways we can keep the communication channels open:

Email: UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24 - 48 hours of receipt. When emailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account, and please put the **course number (Stat 2480/CRN #) in the subject line**. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. Evening and weekend emails will be attended to during regular business hours. Other times, at the discretion of the instructor.

Student Office Hours:

We will not be able to meet on campus, but I will still have office hours for your questions and comments about the course. You are not required to attend the sessions if you do not have questions.

- Monday and Wednesday from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm.
- Mountain Time (Online in Zoom).
- If you do need help and cannot attend during the scheduled time, please email me at chmielke@utep.edu to schedule a one-on-one Zoom appointment.

To access office hours: The Zoom links are posted on the homepage of the Blackboard.

Announcements: Check the announcements posted on Blackboard and your UTEP e-mail frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY AND MATERIALS

Textbook:

Optional

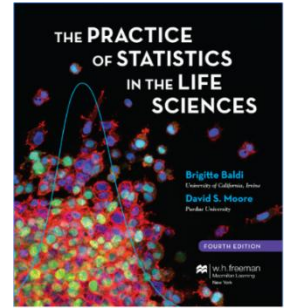
A hard copy of **the textbook** is available but not required for the class.

The e-book is adequate and comes with the required access code.

The Practice of Statistics in the Life Sciences, fourth edition, by Baldi and Moore, with the Achieve online homework package

ISBN-13: 978-1-319-01337-0

Available only on the Macmillan website and UTEP Bookstore



Required

Achieve access is required. Achieve is an **online Course Management System of MacMillan**. This gives you full access to both the assignments and the e-book.

You have two options to purchase:

Option 1) Purchase access to Achieve directly through the Macmillan Learning Student Store. Click on the “Register for Achieve here” link in Blackboard and follow the directions to purchase online.

Option 2) Purchase an Access Code via the UTEP bookstore. Click on the “Register for Achieve here” link in Blackboard and enter **the Access Code** when prompted.

Statistical Software:

The course uses **Minitab** as the statistical computation software. A Minitab portal is ready to use with your UTEP credentials, instructions are on Blackboard. Minitab is also widely available in campus computer labs.

Calculator

A basic calculator for doing computations would be useful. Most computations can be done in Minitab or by hand.

Online Components

You are required to have an Achieve homework account.

Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have consistent access to the internet and a stable web browser. **Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, and Safari** are the most supported browsers for both Blackboard and Achieve.

You will need to have regular access to a computer or laptop. Your cell phone is not sufficient for doing coursework. You will need to download or update the following software:

- Microsoft Office (available for free through UTEP),
- [Adobe](#),
- [Windows Media Player](#) or [QuickTime Player](#), and
- [Java](#).

Blackboard

Blackboard will be our **primary platform**. Within the Blackboard course, you can access all assignments, announcements, and the grade book, which is integrated with the Achieve grade book.

This course is designed using a modular format—that is, each chapter is “packaged” as a single module.

You will find folders with all materials, lecture notes, assignment submission areas, my personal lecture videos, and the worksheets that I use to lecture for a given week.

You can access PowerPoint in Blackboard. I will provide Worksheets for each section that include notes and practice problems with solutions. You are also expected to do the assigned readings from your book. These specific sets of materials will help prepare you for your homework assignments and subsequently your exams. I highly recommend watching my lecture videos.

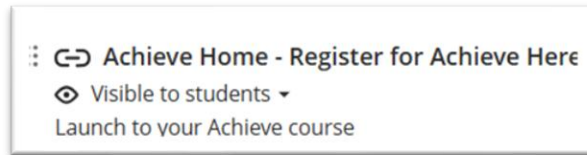
Achieve

Achieve is an **online Course Management System of MacMillan**, the publisher of our text. You must have reliable internet to take an online course. Use the instructions below to access and register for Achieve using your official **UTEP email account**. You will have a **14-day free trial** so that you may access your coursework immediately.

All work, including homework and exams, will take place through Achieve.

Instructions to access and register for Achieve:

- To enroll in my class, use the Achieve link located in the Blackboard, in the folder “START HERE”.



- Please use your **UTEP Miners e-mail account and the name you registered for this class**. Remember your password.
- Next time you log in, click “Log In” and enter your **UTEP Miner's e-mail** and the password you created.

You are required to **purchase an access code** to log in as soon as possible and **before the 14-day grace period** ends. If you purchased a new book from the UTEP bookstore, the code should have come with it. When entering the code, enter all the words and characters in the boxes appropriately.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

STAT 2480 is an introductory statistics class primarily for biological and life sciences. At the successful completion of this class:

- I. A student will be able to identify key components of a statistical study, including experimental design, sampling plan, descriptive statistics, and statistical analysis, and will be able to critique the conclusion of the study based on strengths and weaknesses throughout the paper.
- II. A student will be able to calculate and interpret data utilizing both numerical and graphical summaries to support conclusions.
- III. A student will be able to calculate and model problems using fundamental probability properties and basic probability distributions
- IV. A student will be able to choose the appropriate statistical test for a given data set, perform the test, and utilize the conclusion to decide on a formal hypothesis.
- V. A student will be able to design and implement all of the elements of a statistical study, including experimental design, sampling plan, descriptive statistics, and statistical analysis, and will present the findings in the final presentation.

Assignments:

Modules include a combination **of textbook reading and lecture notes**. Assignments such as **lab(Blackboard), Learning Curve(Achieve), homework(Achieve), and Research Project(Blackboard)**.

Exams: There are three exams for the course. The exams will be conducted on **Achieve**. **Exams 1 and 2 are timed at 90 minutes**. **Exam 3(Final Exam) is timed at 2 hrs and 45 minutes**. You have **1 attempt** at each problem. You will have a **practice exam for each that counts towards your Learning Curve (participation) grade**. There is no retake for all exams.

Research Project: You are required to complete an individual research project by applying statistical concepts. The project has five components (Checkpoints), which need to be submitted separately. The checkpoints are discrete tasks, which, when complete, will comprise an entire statistical study. Each checkpoint has its requirements and due dates. All project assignments are to be submitted on Blackboard.

Labs: Labs consist of hands-on applications using the Minitab program, including a lab assignment and a lab quiz. All these components are together in a folder for each module. Each lab you complete is uploaded via assignment submission on Blackboard. The lab quizzes are about the material covered in the lab and are on Blackboard. Instructions and submission details will be in each module with a lab.

Homework: Homework assignments for the course are fully in the Achieve platform. They consist of a variety of question types about the chapter content covered in a module. Due date information can be found on the Calendar in Blackboard and Achieve (3 late days allowed).

Learning Curve: The learning curve is an adaptive learning tool in Achieve. These assignments with unlimited attempts introduce you to the textbook material with easy questions. You get points for each question you get correct, and you do not lose points for questions you miss. Once you have reached the target goal for the Learning Curve, it is considered complete (earning full credit). You will be graded on the number of Learning Curves you complete (3 late days allowed).

Extra Credit: You can earn extra credit for this course by completing extra credit assignments in Achieve. You have two attempts per question (3 late days allowed). They are counted as an extra 2% to your final course grade.

May/Wintermester:

If a student receives a grade of "D" or "F," they may register for the May/Wintermester workshop. A grade of 70% or better in the May/Wintermester course will replace a failing course grade with a grade of "C". (A grade change form will be signed and submitted by the coordinator for the semester.)

Class Activity Settings

Homework Assignments

Online homework assignments in Achieve have 10 attempts per question. Ensure you have answered all the sub-questions before submitting, as those empty submissions are counted as incorrect (3 late days allowed).

Lab Quizzes and Assignments

Lab assignments can be found on Blackboard. Each question has its submission/instructions (typically copies of MiniTab outputs or interpretations).

Completed lab assignments should be uploaded to the appropriate assignment. The best practice is to complete the lab in a word processor and then save that specific lab as a .doc file. Labs are graded on completion and correctness. Should you run into problems, please indicate them in your lab so they can be addressed.

Lab Quiz

Lab Quizzes are on Blackboard together with the other lab materials. I recommend completing the lab first and then taking the quiz. Quizzes are not timed. You have two attempts at the quiz, and the highest score is taken. Lab quizzes are due the same day as lab submissions.

Exams

The exams consist of questions similar to your homework and learning curve questions. A study guide for the computational problems will also be made available. The review is a Learning Curve score, so be sure to complete the reviews. The exams will be available on Achieve for three days, and the dates specified due dates are listed below. Make sure you are ready to take the exam when you open it because it will start the timer, which cannot be reset. Exams are open notes; organized notes are essential to success.

- Exam 1: Closes on Wednesday, 10-01-25 at 11:59 PM Mountain Time
- Exam 2: Closes on Wednesday, 10-29-25 at 11:59 PM Mountain Time
- Exam 3 or Final Exam: Closes on Wednesday, 12-10-25 at 11:59 PM Mountain Time

Timed Assignments:

For all timed assignments, **the clock begins once you open the assignment**. This clock will not stop for any reason, not even if you log out. For this reason, it is important to check for any updates on your computer before beginning the timed assignments. The due date will change to reflect the time limit for timed assignments once you begin the exam.

Please note: Should you have circumstances beyond your control preventing you from completing the exam in the allotted time, **you may email your instructor for more time, but be prepared to provide **supporting documentation** – such as a screenshot of the issue, or an internet outage report for your area.**

Course Schedule:

A comprehensive course schedule is provided in a separate document. Semester highlights are included.

- August 25th First Day of Classes
- Sept 1st Labor Day holiday
- September 10th Census Day (Last day to drop without a W)
- October 31st Drop Day (Last day to drop with a W)
- Nov 27-28 Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 4th Last Day of Class Meetings
- Dec 8-12th Final Exams Week

Grading Policy

You will be graded on homework, exams, labs, discussion boards, learning curves, and the project. The course grade is based on:

- 15% Exam I
- 15% Exam II
- 20% Final Exam
- 15% Project**
- 15% Homework Assignments
- 10% Lab Quizzes and Lab Assignments
- 10% Learning Curve

Letter grades are determined according to the following scale:

Grade	Score
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	<60

Drop Policy

The Drop Date for this semester is October 31, 2025, before 5:00 PM Mountain Time. No drops will be approved after this date or time.

Students who decide to drop the course must process a drop form by emailing records@utep.edu. Please note that the College of Science will remain aligned with the university and **will not approve any drop requests after that date.**

Incomplete Grade Policy

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed within the deadlines.

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES AND STATEMENTS

Make-up Policy

Homework and Labs (Non-group)

If you have a conflict and need an extension on an assignment, you may email me **before** the due date. Requests received with adequate notice (at least 12 hours before the due date) may be granted an extension with no penalty.

Homework, Learning Curve, and Extra Credit assignments submitted without adequate notice may be submitted up to three days after the due date. **No credit** will be awarded for the assignments after 3 days.

****All homework and quizzes must be completed before the opening window of the exams****

Learning Curves

Learning Curves are considered 'participation' grades for this class. **Partially completed Learning Curves will receive zero points.** Late submissions (**beyond the 3 allowed late days**) will also receive **zero points**.

Exams

A make-up exam will only be given in extraordinary circumstances such as severe illness or death in the family, and with appropriate documentation (e.g., a doctor's note).

Emergencies

If you feel like you have some extenuating circumstance or have an excused absence that will keep you from completing the assignment or quiz promptly, **please contact me right away** and be prepared to show supporting documentation.

University-Sponsored Events:

These include conferences, student-athlete competitions, etc. The student needs to **inform me of any traveling conflicts before leaving** and plan to make adequate arrangements **to make up the missed material within one week of returning.** Failure to do so will result in the forfeiture of points.

Alternative Means of Submitting Work in Case of Technical Issues

I strongly encourage you to submit your work with plenty of time before the due dates to avoid problems caused by technical issues with the course website, network, or your computer.

If problems occur, use the library computers to complete and submit your assignments.

I recommend using [Google Chrome](#), as it is a stable browser for both Blackboard and Achieve.

If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through the course website, please contact the UTEP Help Desk.

Attendance Policy:

You are expected to work toward the completion of the course assignments daily. Attendance in this course is **measured by the completed tasks.** **Failing** to complete tasks in a timely manner is equivalent to being absent. Failure to complete assignments **for two or more weeks without appropriate** communication may result in your being dropped from the course.

You are expected to check Blackboard and your UTEP Miner's e-mail regularly for announcements.

Academic Integrity Policy:

The University policy is that all suspected cases or acts of alleged scholastic dishonesty must be referred to the Dean of Students for investigation and appropriate disposition. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act designed to give an unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

I strongly discourage the use of sites such as Chegg, CourseHero, math apps, etc., in this class. If found that to have consulted or contributed any material related to this class, you will be automatically reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, as this could be considered a violation of the H.O.O.P. The HOOP can be found here: [Handbook of Operation Procedures](#).

Each student is responsible for notice of and compliance with the provisions of the Regents' Rules and Regulations, which are available for inspection electronically at [Regents' Rules and Regulations](#).

All students are expected and required to obey the law, comply with the Regents' Rules and Regulations, with System and University rules, with directives issued by an administrative official during his or her authorized duties, and observe standards of conduct appropriate for the university. A student who enrolls at the university is charged with the obligation to conduct himself/herself in a manner compatible with the university's function as an educational institution.

Any student who engages in conduct that is prohibited by Regents' Rules and Regulations, U. T. System or University rules, specific instructions issued by an administrative official, or by federal, state, or local laws is subject to discipline, whether such conduct takes place on or off-campus or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

As you will be taking online exams this semester, please take a moment to review this list of activities considered cheating by the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR). [Ways to Cheat](#)

Course Netiquette Policy:

All correspondence with your instructor, TA, and other students should be conducted appropriately and professionally. Please be considerate of your tone and word choice when conducting correspondence.

Accommodation Policy:

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services, and activities with documented disabilities to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship to the University. Students requesting accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). **Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747- 5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.**

Military Statement:

If you are a military student with the potential of being called to military service or training during the semester, **you are encouraged to contact me as soon as you receive your orders.**

Copyright Statement:

Course Materials

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for this course. They may not be further disseminated.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

Where can you go for assistance? UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Academic and Technology Resources

- **Math Tutoring Center (MaRCS)**: Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources. Tutoring is provided on a walk-in basis; appointments are not needed. Please visit their website, MaRCS Tutoring Center, for online tutoring. Their website has more information: <https://www.utep.edu/science/math/marcs/>
- **Help Desk**: Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Help Desk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus, Academic Resources.
- **UTEP Library**: Access a wide range of resources, including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks, plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.

Individual Resources

- **Military Student Success Center**: Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- **Center for Accommodations and Support Services**: Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- **Counseling and Psychological Services**: Provides a variety of counseling services, including individual, couples, and group sessions, as well as career and disability assessments.

Health

- UTEP Counseling Center, Student Health and Wellness Center
- El Paso coronavirus hotline (915) 212-6843, El Paso COVID-19 information,
- El Paso's 24-hour Mental Health Crisis Line (915) 779-1800
- National Suicide Prevention Hotline or Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255
- NAMI (National Alliance Against Mental Illness) of El Paso (915) 534-5478