



Communication skills and research integrity for Master of Statistics students: blended learning experiences.

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Master of Statistics graduates operate in complex, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary professional and societal environments. The statistician who merely collaborates with other statisticians is, these days, virtually non-existent. Furthermore, there is a lot of cultural diversity in the statistical student population and work force. Finally, many students receive their training in a blended-learning fashion, some even entirely remotely by way of distance training.

All of these aspects require training to go well beyond the necessary technical skills in terms of methodology and software. Training programs must pay sufficient attention to communication skills. These take the form of oral and written communication. For a good number of statisticians, oral communication is not only geared towards professional communities, but also towards the general public. Needless to say that this requires particular skills. For all communication, statisticians need to master both scholarly styles and conventions, as well as clarity and effectiveness.

A very important aspect of a statistician's work is data and research integrity in the broadest sense. The professional statistician holds responsibility, at least in part, over quality, confidentiality, and integrity of data. High standards for data analysis and reporting, avoidance of plagiarism, etc. are evident components of this.