# STAT273

Introduction to Probability

S1 Day 2016

Dept of Statistics

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## General Information

**Unit convenor and teaching staff**

**Unit Convener**
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AHH, Level 2

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Contact via georgy.sofronov@mq.edu.au  
AHH, Level 2

**Credit points**
3

**Prerequisites**
(STAT170(P) or STAT171(P) or STAT150(P)) and ((HSC Mathematics Band 2 or Extension 1 or Extension 2) or 3cp from MATH123-MATH339) and (STAT175(P) or GPA of 2.0 (out of 4.0))

**Corequisites**

**Co-badged status**
This unit is co-taught with STAT273.

**Unit description**
This unit consolidates and expands upon the material on probability introduced in statistics units at 100 level. The emphasis is on the understanding of probability concepts and their application. Examples are taken from areas as diverse as biology, medicine, finance, sport, and the social and physical sciences. Topics include: the foundations of probability; probability models and their properties; some commonly used statistical distributions; relationships and association between variables; distribution of functions of random variables and sample statistics; approximations including the central limit theorem; and an introduction to the behaviour of random processes. Simulation is used to demonstrate many of these concepts.

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at [https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates](https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates)
Learning Outcomes

1. Describe a probabilistic model for an experiment. Calculate probability and conditional probability of an event. The independence of events.
2. Understand the difference between discrete and continuous random variables.
3. For discrete or continuous random variables be able to calculate probabilities of events, their expected values and variances. Graph the probability distributions or probability density functions and the cumulative distribution functions. Using moment generating functions for finding of moments of random variables. Generate random numbers from distributions and use these numbers for solving probability problems.
4. Understand a bivariate probability distribution, joint, marginal, conditional probabilities and covariance. Understand a bivariate Normal distribution.
5. Limit theorems: the Law of Large Numbers (LLN) and the Central Limit Theorem (CLT).
6. Be able to generate random data. Be able to organize and summarize any random data. Determine whether a particular model fits random data.
7. Understanding a Markov Chain (MC), a stationary distribution of MC. Interpretation of MCs with absorbing states.
8. Students will build their knowledge starting from the basic idea of probability. At the end, they will be able to solve complex problems in a creative way.

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Tutorial assessment</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 1</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Week 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 2</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Week 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PC-Lab Test</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Week 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>University Examination Period</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Weekly Tutorial assessment

Due: Weekly
Weighting: 10%

In weeks 3 to 12 students are required to submit the tutorial work via iLearn. Students will be
given a week to complete the task. The cut-off date will be announced on iLearn. Tutorial works are equally weighted and worth 10% of the unit assessment.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

• Describe a probabilistic model for an experiment. Calculate probability and conditional probability of an event. The independence of events.

• For discrete or continuous random variables be able to calculate probabilities of events, their expected values and variances. Graph the probability distributions or probability density functions and the cumulative distribution functions. Using moment generating functions for finding of moments of random variables. Generate random numbers from distributions and use these numbers for solving probability problems.

• Understand a bivariate probability distribution, joint, marginal, conditional probabilities and covariance. Understand a bivariate Normal distribution.

• Be able to generate random data. Be able to organize and summarize any random data. Determine whether a particular model fits random data.

• Understanding a Markov Chain (MC), a stationary distribution of MC. Interpretation of MCs with absorbing states.

Test 1
Due: Week 3
Weighting: 10%

You are permitted ONE A4 page of paper containing reference material handwritten on both sides. All necessary statistical tables and the formulae sheet will be provided. An electronic calculator is essential. Text-returnable calculators are not permitted.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

• Describe a probabilistic model for an experiment. Calculate probability and conditional probability of an event. The independence of events.

• Students will build their knowledge starting from the basic idea of probability. At the end, they will be able to solve complex problems in a creative way.

Assignment
Due: Week 7
Weighting: 10%

Students will be given two weeks to complete the Assignment. The Assignment will be administered via iLearn.

No extensions will be granted. Students, who were unable to submit the Assignment on time, will be awarded 0 mark, except for cases in which an application for Disruption to Studies is made.
This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

• Understand the difference between discrete and continuous random variables.
• For discrete or continuous random variables be able to calculate probabilities of events, their expected values and variances. Graph the probability distributions or probability density functions and the cumulative distribution functions. Using moment generating functions for finding of moments of random variables. Generate random numbers from distributions and use these numbers for solving probability problems.
• Students will build their knowledge starting from the basic idea of probability. At the end, they will be able to solve complex problems in a creative way.

Test 2
Due: Week 11
Weighting: 10%
You are permitted ONE A4 page of paper containing reference material handwritten on both sides. All necessary statistical tables and the formulae sheet will be provided. An electronic calculator is essential. Text-returnable calculators are not permitted.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

• Describe a probabilistic model for an experiment. Calculate probability and conditional probability of an event. The independence of events.
• Understand the difference between discrete and continuous random variables.
• For discrete or continuous random variables be able to calculate probabilities of events, their expected values and variances. Graph the probability distributions or probability density functions and the cumulative distribution functions. Using moment generating functions for finding of moments of random variables. Generate random numbers from distributions and use these numbers for solving probability problems.
• Students will build their knowledge starting from the basic idea of probability. At the end, they will be able to solve complex problems in a creative way.

PC-Lab Test
Due: Week 13
Weighting: 10%

Open Book test. The PC-Lab Test will be held during the tutorial.

No extensions will be granted. Students, who were unable to submit their work on time, will be awarded 0 mark, except for cases in which an application for Disruption to Studies is made and

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/58057/unit_guide/print 5
This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Describe a probabilistic model for an experiment. Calculate probability and conditional probability of an event. The independence of events.
- Understand the difference between discrete and continuous random variables.
- For discrete or continuous random variables be able to calculate probabilities of events, their expected values and variances. Graph the probability distributions or probability density functions and the cumulative distribution functions. Using moment generating functions for finding of moments of random variables. Generate random numbers from distributions and use these numbers for solving probability problems.
- Limit theorems: the Law of Large Numbers (LLN) and the Central Limit Theorem (CLT).
- Be able to generate random data. Be able to organize and summarize any random data. Determine whether a particular model fits random data.
- Students will build their knowledge starting from the basic idea of probability. At the end, they will be able to solve complex problems in a creative way.

Final Examination

Due: University Examination Period
Weighting: 50%

The final examination will be of 3 hours duration plus 10 minutes reading time.

For the final examination you are permitted ONE A4 page of paper containing reference material handwritten on both sides. The pages will not be returned after the end of the final examination.

All necessary statistical tables and the formulae sheet will be provided.

An electronic calculator is essential and will be required. Text-returnable calculators are not permitted.

You are expected to present yourself for examination at the time and place designated in the University Examination Timetable.

The timetable will be available in Draft form approximately eight weeks before the commencement of the examinations and in Final form approximately four weeks before the commencement of the examinations (http://www.exams.mq.edu.au).

The Macquarie University Final Examination policy details can be viewed at http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/examination/policy.htm

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offers/58057/unit_guide/print
This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Describe a probabilistic model for an experiment. Calculate probability and conditional probability of an event. The independence of events.
- Understand the difference between discrete and continuous random variables.
- For discrete or continuous random variables be able to calculate probabilities of events, their expected values and variances. Graph the probability distributions or probability density functions and the cumulative distribution functions. Using moment generating functions for finding of moments of random variables. Generate random numbers from distributions and use these numbers for solving probability problems.
- Understand a bivariate probability distribution, joint, marginal, conditional probabilities and covariance. Understand a bivariate Normal distribution.
- Be able to generate random data. Be able to organize and summarize any random data. Determine whether a particular model fits random data.
- Understanding a Markov Chain (MC), a stationary distribution of MC. Interpretation of MCs with absorbing states.
- Students will build their knowledge starting from the basic idea of probability. At the end, they will be able to solve complex problems in a creative way.

**Delivery and Resources**

STAT273 students must attend three hours of lectures and one hour of tutorial per week. Tutorials start in the second week of the Session.

The timetable for classes can be found at [http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au](http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au)

**iLearn**

All unit related materials, lecture notes, tutorials, the assessment and administrative updates, will be posted on the unit site on iLearn at [https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/login/MQ/](https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/login/MQ/).

The lecture notes will be made available on iLearn before the lecture.

Audio recordings of lectures will be available on iLearn soon after the lecture is delivered.

**Software**

In this unit Microsoft Excel and R will be used.

The link to online answer engine Wolfram Alpha is available for verifying results of your calculations:


**Recommended Texts and/or Materials**

There is not the textbook set for this unit.
Recommended references available at Macquarie University library include:


(*) Electronic copy is available from Macquarie University library.

**Teaching and Learning Strategy**

**Lectures**

Lectures begin in Week 1. Students should attend three hours of lectures a week.

**Tutorials**

Tutorials begin in Week 2. Students should attend one hour tutorial a week. Every week, from Week 3 to Week 12, students must submit their tutorial work on iLearn.

Tutorials are based on the material from the previous week’s lecture. The aim of tutorials is to solve problems applying analytical techniques learnt in lectures or using a statistical software.

**Unit Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>LECTURE TOPIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W1</td>
<td>Experiments, sample spaces, Probability rules, Permutations and Combinations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W2</td>
<td>Conditional Probability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Independence, Bayes’ Theorem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W3</td>
<td>Random Variables.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Probability Functions, Cumulative Distribution functions, Expected value, Variance, Moments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W4</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:


In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs) of Policy Central.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W6</td>
<td>More Special Discrete Distributions: Negative Binomial and Hypergeometric. Introduction to Continuous random variables.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W7</td>
<td>Mid-semester break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W8</td>
<td>Special Continuous Distributions: Uniform, Exponential. Moment generating functions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W9</td>
<td>Normal Distribution. More Special Continuous Distributions: Gamma and Beta Distributions. Chebyshev’s Theorem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W12</td>
<td>t-Distribution, Distribution of a sample mean (the variance is unknown). A discrete bivariate distribution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction to Markov Chains: states, transition probabilities, state vectors, stationary distribution, absorbing states.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit [http://students.mq.edu.au/support/](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/)

Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

Student Enquiry Service

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

Equity Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](http://students.mq.edu.au/disability/) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/).

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and...
systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Describe a probabilistic model for an experiment. Calculate probability and conditional probability of an event. The independence of events.
- Understand the difference between discrete and continuous random variables.
- Be able to generate random data. Be able to organize and summarize any random data. Determine whether a particular model fits random data.

**Assessment tasks**

- Weekly Tutorial assessment
- Test 1
- Assignment
- Test 2
- PC-Lab Test
- Final Examination

**Effective Communication**

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Assessment tasks**

- Assignment
- Final Examination

**Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative**

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:
Assessment tasks

- Assignment
- Final Examination

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- For discrete or continuous random variables be able to calculate probabilities of events, their expected values and variances. Graph the probability distributions or probability density functions and the cumulative distribution functions. Using moment generating functions for finding of moments of random variables. Generate random numbers from distributions and use these numbers for solving probability problems.
- Understand a bivariate probability distribution, joint, marginal, conditional probabilities and covariance. Understand a bivariate Normal distribution.
- Limit theorems: the Law of Large Numbers (LLN) and the Central Limit Theorem (CLT).
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Assessment tasks

- Weekly Tutorial assessment
- Test 1
- Assignment
- Test 2
- PC-Lab Test
- Final Examination

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative
in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcome**

- Be able to generate random data. Be able to organize and summarize any random data.
  Determine whether a particular model fits random data.

**Assessment tasks**

- Weekly Tutorial assessment
- Test 1
- Assignment
- Test 2
- PC-Lab Test
- Final Examination

**Creative and Innovative**

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcome**

- Students will build their knowledge starting from the basic idea of probability. At the end, they will be able to solve complex problems in a creative way.

**Assessment tasks**

- Weekly Tutorial assessment
- Test 1
- Assignment
- Test 2
- PC-Lab Test
- Final Examination

**Commitment to Continuous Learning**

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.
This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcome**

- Students will build their knowledge starting from the basic idea of probability. At the end, they will be able to solve complex problems in a creative way.

**Assessment tasks**

- Weekly Tutorial assessment
- Test 1
- Assignment
- Test 2
- PC-Lab Test
- Final Examination

**Changes from Previous Offering**

Some lecture and tutorial materials will be updated with new exercises.

**Changes since First Published**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27/01/2016</td>
<td>Reference to Special Consideration Policy is replaced by Disruption to Studies Policy</td>
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</tbody>
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