# A SHORT HISTORY OF STATISTICAL SCIENCE
# AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY


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## Introduction

The academic discipline of statistical science came to its present status in the mid-twentieth century. In the early part of the century, numerous applications of statistical methods were made in the biological and the physical sciences, in agriculture, in industry, and in the social sciences. The mathematical foundations underlying these applications were developed by a few individuals who, for the most part, were not in academic departments. By the mid-1930's, R.A. Fisher, Jerzy Neyman, and Abraham Wald had made many contributions to the mathematical foundations of statistical inference, and the theory of Hotelling's T-statistic was well-known. In 1935, the Ohio State University created a department of statistics, the first such academic department in the world. Shortly thereafter, statistical courses were offered in the Mathematics Department, and by the late 1940's, Ohio State had a vibrant group of faculty members who had joined the department because of its promise of being a place where statistical research could be conducted. In the 1950's, the Ohio State Department of Statistics was a leader in the development of statistical theory and methodology. This document contains a brief history of the Ohio State Department of Statistics, and it also contains a brief history of the Statistics Program at Ohio State University, which was established in the 1960's. Since the early 1960's, the Statistics Program has been a vibrant and successful interdisciplinary program, and it has been a very important component of the statistical research and training at Ohio State. The Statistics Program has had a very large number of students who have completed its M.S. degree program, and it has had a small number of students who have completed its Ph.D. program. The Statistics Program has had a very large number of faculty members who have been associated with the program, and it has had a very large number of faculty members who have been associated with the program who have been tenured in other departments at Ohio State University. This document also contains a brief history of the Statistics Program.

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## Part I. The Period 1870-1974 (99 A.D. Bateman Whitney)

The academic discipline of statistical science came to its present status in the mid-twentieth century. In the early part of the century, numerous applications of statistical methods were made in the biological and the physical sciences, in agriculture, in industry, and in the social sciences. The mathematical foundations underlying these applications were developed by a few individuals who, for the most part, were not in academic departments. By the mid-1930's, R.A. Fisher, Jerzy Neyman, and Abraham Wald had made many contributions to the mathematical foundations of statistical inference, and the theory of Hotelling's T-statistic was well-known. In 1935, the Ohio State University created a department of statistics, the first such academic department in the world. Shortly thereafter, statistical courses were offered in the Mathematics Department, and by the late 1940's, Ohio State had a vibrant group of faculty members who had joined the department because of its promise of being a place where statistical research could be conducted. In the 1950's, the Ohio State Department of Statistics was a leader in the development of statistical theory and methodology. This document contains a brief history of the Ohio State Department of Statistics, and it also contains a brief history of the Statistics Program at Ohio State University, which was established in the 1960's. Since the early 1960's, the Statistics Program has been a vibrant and successful interdisciplinary program, and it has been a very important component of the statistical research and training at Ohio State. The Statistics Program has had a very large number of students who have completed its M.S. degree program, and it has had a small number of students who have completed its Ph.D. program. The Statistics Program has had a very large number of faculty members who have been associated with the program, and it has had a very large number of faculty members who have been associated with the program who have been tenured in other departments at Ohio State University. This document also contains a brief history of the Statistics Program.

### A. The Beginnings

Ohio State University was established in 1870 as a land-grant institution. Its first President was Jared Sparks, who was a well-known historian. Sparks was followed by President Edward Orton, who was a geologist. Orton was followed by President William Oxley Thompson, who was a Greek scholar. Thompson was President when the Ohio State University became a coeducational institution in 1878. Thompson was President when the Ohio State University became a member institution of the Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities in 1887. Thompson was President when the Ohio State University became a member institution of the Association of American Universities in 1916. Thompson was President when the Ohio State University became a member institution of the Association of American Universities in 1917. Thompson was President when the Ohio State University became a member institution of the Association of American Universities in 1918. 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