

Course Information for MTH 23 (D13, 32508), Fall 2026

Probability and Statistics

Instructor: Prof. Cormac O'Sullivan

Office: CP 317 (The CP or CPH building has the big concrete arch. Go to the 3rd floor.)

Office hours: Monday 12:00 – 1:00, Wednesday 12:00 – 1:00.

Email: cormac.osullivan@bcc.cuny.edu

Class web page: <http://fsw01.bcc.cuny.edu/cormac.osullivan>

This is a regular web page, linked from Brightspace. It will contain the class calendar, due homework, information, review sheets and more.

Book

As shown on the syllabus, we will use the textbook Understanding Basic Statistics by Brase & Brase, 8th edition (or 7th), Cengage Learning. It is a good idea to buy the book. The BCC library also has some copies on reserve.

Calculator

You'll need a basic scientific calculator. You will not be allowed to use your phone as a calculator during tests.

Attendance

I will take attendance at the start of each class. Please arrive on time!

Grading

- *Homework (20%).* Assignments will be posted on the class web page every week, to be handed in the following week.
- *Quizzes (20%).* There will be 3 in-class quizzes.
- *Midterm (25%).*
- *Final (35%).* The final will cover all the material in the course. The questions will be similar to homework and quiz questions. You must score at least 50% on the final exam to pass the course.

Advice about the homework

Really, the only way to pass this course is by figuring out how to do the weekly homework questions and understanding them yourself. If you hand in the homework without understanding it – for example by using AI or asking your friend to do it – then you will likely fail this course. Remember, homework is only worth 20% of your grade while tests are worth 80%. But if you keep up with the homework then you'll do well on the quizzes, midterm and final exam.

So put some effort into the homework sets. Write your answers neatly on notepaper. Leave plenty of space so I can include comments and corrections. I will deduct points, or have you hand it in again, if your answers are untidy, squashed together or hard to grade.

If you get stuck and don't understand something then there are lots of ways to get help: talk to me after class or email me, come to my office hours or set up a time to meet. You can also get tutoring assistance at the Math Tutorial Lab which is open all semester, starting soon. It is in-person in CP 303, and online.