

## Accreditation of Statisticians by the Statistical Society of Canada

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We try to preserve the intent of the original document throughout. However in some places, the intent was unclear (e.g. not even expressed) so we have made our own proposals. In other places, we have knowingly changed the intent. To help inform the debate, these have been highlighted in yellow as they occur throughout the document.

## ***1. Introduction***

The Statistical Society of Canada (SSC) offers two levels of accreditation, the Professional Statistician (P.Stat.) and the Associate Statistician (A.Stat.). These qualifications are intended to indicate to the broader statistical and non-statistical communities that the holder has achieved a certain level of professional competence in the understanding and application of statistical methods and maintains a level of ethical practice. The SSC website and a brochure advertise the existence of accreditation to prospective applicants and employers.

A certificate of accreditation level and licensee number are issued to recipients of accredited status. The certificate indicates that the holder has agreed to adhere to ethical practice as defined by the SSC Code of Ethical Statistical Practice. The Code is available in a brochure downloadable from the SSC website (see Appendix B).

## ***2. Professional Statistician***

The qualification of P.Stat. indicates that the holder has the necessary academic qualifications and a minimum of six years of professional experience in the application of statistics. A P.Stat. statistician may affix this designation to his or her list of professional qualifications.

### **2.1 Requirements for Applicants**

Accreditation as a Professional Statistician is based on a combination of formal education in statistics, relevant practical experience (Appendix A) and a commitment to adhere to the SSC Code of Ethical Statistical Practice.

To apply for P.Stat accreditation, a statistician must:

1. practise in Canada
2. be a citizen of Canada, a legal resident of Canada, or legally entitled to work in Canada
3. be a member of the SSC
4. meet the educational requirements for the A.Stat. designation as described in Appendix A or be the first author of a publication in a refereed statistical or methodological journal
5. have at least six years broad practical experience in applying statistics at a substantial level together with acceptable evidence of knowledge, competence, and contributions to the subject and its applications as described in Appendix B.
6. within the past three years have undertaken substantial professional development as described in Appendix C
7. maintained an ethical practice based on the SSC Code of Ethics (Appendix B)

## **2.2 How to Apply**

To apply for the P.Stat. designation, an applicant must complete the official application form available from the SSC website. See the document Application Instructions on the website for details on how to complete and submit the form. Applications will be accepted in either French or English.

The applicant must clearly demonstrate fulfillment of the seven requirements in Section 2.1. The applicant is responsible for ensuring that the materials submitted are sufficient to assess the candidacy.

The Accreditation Committee will assess each application on the basis of the information provided. The Committee may determine its own procedures for reviewing applications, but in no case shall a recommendation for accreditation be forwarded to the SSC Board without having been reviewed by at least two members of the Committee. The Committee reserves the right to require additional materials.

Candidates must submit copies of at least two pieces of written work to support claims of experience, professional competence and diversity. These may be technical reports, publications in refereed journals or extracts from other work. If the work described has been carried out jointly by the applicant and others, the applicant must provide clear evidence of his or her individual contribution.

The applicant must supply the names of two referees who may be asked (as decided by the Accreditation Committee in its sole unfettered determination, not subject to appeal) to write letters of support directly to the Accreditation Committee. The referees should be in a position to comment on the candidate's work from firsthand knowledge. The Committee may request that the applicant nominate additional referees. If a referee is a client or a colleague who is not a statistician, the referee may be asked to describe the grounds for assessing the candidate's work. The Committee may require further documentation from the referee.

An applicant may identify up to two members of the Accreditation Committee who should not see the application because of confidentiality, conflict of interest, or other reasons.

A completed application form must be sent electronically to the SSC in accordance with the instructions provided with the form. Applications may be submitted at any time, but the Accreditation Committee will normally bring forward recommendations to the SSC Board twice a year, on May 1st and October 1st. When the process is fully established, the corresponding submission deadlines will be February 1st and June 1st respectively, to ensure that applications received by these dates may be properly evaluated for the next Board meeting.

Each applicant will be required to pay an application fee as determined by the SSC. There will be no refund if the application is not successful.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that they have permission from their employers for members of the Committee to review any submitted material and to ensure the security of any information in that material deemed to be sensitive (e.g. to use the security features of electronic documents to encrypt sensitive information).

An applicant who is unsuccessful will receive written feedback from the Accreditation Committee Chair and may reapply no sooner than 12 months after receipt of the Committee's written notification. An unsuccessful applicant may appeal the decision in writing to the Chair of the Accreditation Appeals Committee within 30 calendar days of the date of the notification letter. Complete details of the appeal process are given in Section 5.

A successful applicant may ask for feedback from the Chair of the Accreditation Committee.

### **2.3 Confidentiality of Records**

Only members of the Accreditation Committee may access an application. The documents are not available to anyone else except by written consent of the applicant. In the case of an appeal of the accreditation decision, members of the Accreditation Appeals Committee will also have access to the application. If there is further appeal to the Board of the SSC, Board members will have access to the application. Any member of the SSC who sees the accreditation application will sign a non-disclosure agreement.

The applications are stored confidentially at the SSC Office together with any related reports written by the Accreditation Committee Chair, Committee members, or members of the Board. All such documents will be kept confidential and stored securely with the application. Only persons who have signed a non-disclosure agreement are permitted to handle these documents.

Although the SSC will use reasonable efforts to keep an applicant's details confidential at all times, the SSC makes no representation or warranty to this effect.

An applicant may request further confidentiality. In the event that additional safeguards are required, as determined by the Chair of the Accreditation Committee in his or her sole determination, one or more of the following additional measures may be adopted:

1. Sensitive reports may be de-sensitized by obfuscation, provided the intentionally obfuscated areas are clearly marked (e.g. by the replacement of specific numbers with x, y, z, etc.).
2. Formal letters of confidentiality may be exchanged to reinforce the above confidentiality conditions.
3. The submission of written reports as part of the application documentation may be replaced by oral reviews (possibly conducted remotely by teleconference or similar means) by at least two committee members; the

applicant is responsible for any expenses incurred.

In case 3, the Accreditation Committee will ask the referees to submit letters of support and to be available for interviews. Each Accreditation Committee reviewer will perform an independent interview of the applicant and the two referees.

## **2.4 Maintaining P.Stat Status**

Members maintain their P.Stat status by

1. the payment of annual membership fees and accreditation dues to the SSC
2. annual submission of the form with past and current fields of expertise and practice
3. annual submission of the form with the past year's record of professional development (PD)
4. the maintenance of ethical professional competency and practice.

The first year accreditation dues for P.Stat. members accredited at the June Board meeting will be 1/2 of that year's annual dues, collected immediately following notification of a successful application. The dues for those accredited at an October Board Meeting will be waived for that year.

Accreditation dues will be billed with the annual SSC membership forms.

The information collected annually about an individual's past and new areas of expertise and practice will be kept in a database posted on the SSC website. Individual PD information will be stored indefinitely in a secure location and accessed only by Accreditation Committee members for the purpose of planning PD activity.

Members must maintain P.Stat. competence levels in chosen area(s) of statistical practice. Such competence is a fundamental ethical requirement of professional practice. Documents referred to in Appendix B provide details on professional development. It is recognized that these areas might change over time and members should maintain their own records of professional development should they be needed to demonstrate maintenance of competence.

Each P.Stat. will take responsibility for deciding what activities are most timely and relevant for maintaining his or her competence. There is no official list of activities that qualify and no regular review of performance.

Professional Statisticians are required to comply with the SSC Code of Ethical Statistical Practice (see reference in Appendix B).

By meeting the requirements listed above, the P.Stat. designation is expected to be for life.

## 2.4 Loss of P.Stat Status

An accredited member may choose to terminate accreditation by any of the following actions

- terminating membership in the SSC
- giving written notice to the Accreditation Committee
- not paying annual accreditation dues

Accreditation terminated by the member may be reinstated at the discretion of the Accreditation Appeals Committee. The Committee will take into account temporary interruptions, e.g. absence from Canada, parental leave, illness, etc.

Accredited status may be rescinded by the Board of the SSC as the result of a compliant alleging professional misconduct, professional negligence, abuse or misuse of the professional designation privilege, or conduct in breach of professional ethics. See Section 5.

## 3. *Associate Statistician*

The qualification of A.Stat. indicates that the holder has a broad knowledge of statistical theory and methods but lacks the extensive experience of a Professional Statistician. An Associate Statistician may affix the A.Stat. designation to his or her list of professional qualifications.

### 3.1 Requirements for Applicants

To apply for A.Stat. accreditation, a statistician must:

1. practise in Canada
2. be a citizen of Canada, a legal resident of Canada, or legally entitled to work in Canada
3. hold an Honours bachelor's degree with a major in Statistics from an SSC accredited program (see the SSC website), or the equivalent.
4. be a member of the SSC

This seemed clearer and easier to manage.

Most, if not all, of the educational requirement of point 3 will be met by holders of Honours degrees in Statistics or those who have a major in Statistics from programs other than those presently credited by the SSC. Similarly, holders of advanced degrees in Statistics likely meet the requirements and are encouraged to apply. Applicants who have not graduated from accredited programs will need to submit sufficient supporting material to demonstrate to the Accreditation Committee's satisfaction that they have met the educational requirements. The educational requirements cover a broad range of statistical methods and theory, facility with computing, communication skills and knowledge of an application area -- details of statistical and other topics which are required are available on the SSC website.

The thinking here is that details on topics etc. should be in a separate document for use by the Accreditation Committee. These could be made public and more easily changed as topics change.

### **3.2 How to Apply**

To apply for the A.Stat. designation, an applicant must complete the official application form available from the SSC website. See the document Application Instructions on the website for details on how to complete and submit the form. Applications will be accepted in either French or English.

The applicant must clearly demonstrate fulfillment of the three requirements in Section 3.1. The applicant is responsible for ensuring that the materials submitted are sufficient to assess the candidacy.

Graduates from accredited programs (see the SSC website, Appendix B) are deemed to have satisfied the educational requirements for an A.Stat.

The applicant must supply the names of two referees who may be asked (as decided by the Accreditation Committee in its sole unfettered determination, not subject to appeal) to write letters of support directly to the Accreditation Committee. The referees should be in a position to comment on the candidate's work from firsthand knowledge. The Committee may request that the applicant nominate additional referees. If a referee is a client or a colleague who is not a statistician, the referee may be asked to describe the grounds for assessing the candidate's work. The Committee may require further documentation from the referee.

The Accreditation Committee will assess each application on the basis of the information provided. The Committee may determine its own procedures for reviewing applications, but in no case shall a recommendation be forwarded to the SSC Board without having been reviewed by at least two members of the Committee. The Committee reserves the right to require additional materials.

An applicant may identify up to two members of the Accreditation Committee who should not see the application because of confidentiality, conflict of interest, or other reasons.

A completed application form must be sent electronically to the SSC in accordance with the instructions provided with the form. Applications may be submitted at any time, but the Accreditation Committee will normally bring forward recommendations to the SSC Board twice a year, on May 1st and October 1st. When the process is fully established, the corresponding submission deadlines will be February 1st and June 1st respectively, to ensure that applications received by these dates may be properly evaluated for the next Board meeting.

Each applicant will be required to pay an application fee as determined by the SSC. There will be no refund if the application is not successful.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that they have permission from their employers for members of the Committee to review any submitted material and to ensure

the security of any information in that material deemed to be sensitive (e.g. to use the security features of electronic documents to encrypt sensitive information).

An applicant who is unsuccessful will receive written feedback from the Accreditation Committee Chair and may reapply no sooner than 12 months after receipt of the Committee's written notification. An unsuccessful applicant may appeal the decision in writing to the Chair of the Accreditation Appeals Committee within 30 calendar days of the date of the notification letter. Complete details of the appeal process are given in Section 5.

### 3.3 Confidentiality of Records

Only members of the Accreditation Committee may access an application. The documents are not available to anyone else except by written consent of the applicant. In the case of an appeal of the accreditation decision, members of the Accreditation Appeals Committee will also have access to the application. If there is further appeal to the Board of the SSC, Board members will have access to the application. Any member of the SSC who sees the accreditation application will sign a non-disclosure agreement.

The applications are stored confidentially at the SSC Office together with any related reports written by the Accreditation Committee Chair, Committee members, or members of the Board. All such documents will be kept confidential and stored securely with the application. Only persons who have signed a non-disclosure agreement are permitted to handle these documents.

Although the SSC will use reasonable efforts to keep an applicant's details confidential at all times, the SSC makes no representation or warranty to this effect.

### 3.4 Maintaining A.Stat. Status

Members maintain their A.Stat. status by

1. continuing to be members in good standing of the SSC
2. the payment of annual accreditation dues to the SSC
3. the annual submission of the form with past and current fields of expertise and practice
4. the annual submission of the form with the past year's record of professional development (PD)
5. the maintenance of ethical professional competency and practice
6. establishing a mentoring relationship with a P.Stat statistician within three years of receiving accreditation (it is expected that this would continue until the P.Stat. is achieved and for a minimum of three years).

Easy to monitor

The first year accreditation dues for an A.Stat. accredited at the June Board meeting will be 1/2 of that year's annual dues, collected immediately following notification of a

This is perhaps the most contentious proposed change. The thinking is to allow enough time so that mentors could be found. This says that at least half of an A.Stat.'s time to becoming a P.Stat. requires a mentor.



successful application. The dues for those accredited at an October Board Meeting will be waived for that year.

Accreditation dues will be billed with the annual SSC membership forms.

Individual PD information will be stored indefinitely in a secure location and accessed only by Accreditation Committee members for the purpose of planning PD activity. Appendix C provides details on professional development. Members should maintain their own records on professional development should they be needed to demonstrate maintenance of competence.

Each A.Stat. will take responsibility for deciding what activities are most timely and relevant for maintaining his or her competence. There is no official list of activities that qualify and no regular review of performance.

Associate Statisticians are required to comply with the SSC Code of Ethical Statistical Practice (see reference in Appendix B).

An A.Stat. recipient is required to establish a mentorship relationship with a P.Stat. advisor **within three years** of accreditation. Interactions with the mentor must be documented as part of PD activity. See the SSC website for details and the advantages of a mentoring relationship (see Appendix B).

See page 8  
comment

By meeting the requirements listed above, the A.Stat. statistician should qualify for P.Stat. status once he or she has met the experience requirement.

### **3.5 Loss of A.Stat Status**

An accredited member may choose to terminate accreditation by any of the following actions

- terminating membership in the SSC
- giving written notice to the Accreditation Committee
- not paying annual accreditation dues

Accreditation terminated by the member may be reinstated at the discretion of the Accreditation Appeals Committee. The Committee will take into account temporary interruptions, e.g. absence from Canada, parental leave, illness, etc.

A.Stat accreditation may be rescinded by the Board of the SSC if the A.Stat. fails to join the SSC or to establish a mentoring relationship with a P.Stat. within 4 months of accreditation.

Accredited status may be rescinded by the Board of the SSC as the result of a compliant alleging professional misconduct, professional negligence, abuse or misuse of the professional designation privilege, or conduct in breach of professional ethics. See section 5.

## **4. Accreditation Operating Committees**

This section describes the formation and duties of the Accreditation Committee and the Accreditation Appeals Committee.

Two committees, the Accreditation Committee and the Accreditation Appeals Committee, are responsible for the promotion, management and improvement of all aspects of the accreditation process. Final responsibility for the accreditation process rests with the SSC Board of Directors.

### **4.1 The Accreditation Committee**

The Accreditation Committee makes recommendations to the Board of the SSC about all aspects of accreditation, including each application received. Normally, the Board will receive recommendations on applications twice a year, at the summer and fall Board meetings. Submissions are encouraged throughout the year. Each accreditation requires Board approval. Materials submitted for an application will be kept confidential at all stages of the process.

The membership of this committee is public and will be posted on the SSC website.

#### **4.1.1 Committee Composition**

The Accreditation Committee consists of a Chair and twelve P.Stat members of the SSC. The members will be elected by the P.Stat. members of the SSC during the annual SSC elections.

Elected members of the Accreditation Committee shall normally serve a two year term. except for the first election when six of the members shall be elected for a one year term. A member may serve at most two terms consecutively.

Each year, the Committee will submit a slate of candidates to replace retiring members to the Election Committee Chair for inclusion in the annual SSC elections.

A member of the Accreditation Committee shall cease to hold office:

- a) if the member resigns the office by written notice to the Secretary of the SSC;
- b) if the member is determined by a competent authority to be of unsound mind;
- c) if the member has been convicted of a criminal offense;
- d) if the member becomes bankrupt or otherwise insolvent;
- e) on the member's death;
- f) if the member ceases to hold the P.Stat. designation for any reason.

The SSC Board of Directors shall fill any vacancy by appointing an eligible P.Stat. member to serve for the balance of the unexpired term. Such an appointed member may serve at most two consecutive terms, including the initial partial term.

#### **4.1.2 Chair of the Accreditation Committee**

This was never specified before.

The Chair of the Accreditation Committee is appointed by the Board of Directors of the SSC and is normally selected from the members of this committee. The term of the chair is two years; normally at most two terms may be consecutive.

#### **4.1.3 Duties of the Accreditation Committee**

Decisions are made by majority vote with the Chair voting only in the case of a tie.

The Accreditation Committee is the primary body to make recommendations to the Board of the SSC about the accreditation process and applications for accreditation. The Committee is responsible to the Board.

The duties of the Committee are:

1. to assess applications of individuals for the qualifications of A.Stat. and P.Stat. according to the requirements stated in the Accreditation document and to make recommendations to the Board on such applications for accreditation;
2. to review requests for accreditation by programs and to make recommendations on these requests to the Board;
3. to make recommendations to the Board about the accreditation process;
4. to produce amendments to accreditation documentation, for consideration and approval by the Board.
5. to promote and provide information to individuals, universities, employers, associations and other interested bodies about accreditation
6. to assist in the planning and provision of services to accredited members, especially in the areas of professional development and ethical statistical practice;
7. to nominate slates of candidates who are P.Stat. members for election to the Accreditation Committee and to the Accreditation Appeals Committee.

The Accreditation Committee shall furnish a written report at the Annual Meeting of the SSC describing the activities of the Committee in the preceding year. As well, the Committee will report to the SSC Board at each Board meeting.

#### **4.2 Accreditation Appeals Committee**

The Accreditation Appeals Committee is the arbiter for all appeals involving the accreditation process.

#### 4.2.1 Appeals Committee Composition

"normally"  
allows  
flexibility  
in unusual  
circum-  
stances

The Accreditation Appeals Committee consists of a Chair and six P.Stat members of the SSC who are not members of the Accreditation Committee. The members will be elected by the members of the SSC who hold either a P.Stat. or an A.Stat. designation. The election will normally be held with the annual SSC elections and the slate of candidates are nominated by the Accreditation Committee. A member shall not be nominated for the Accreditation Appeals Committee for at least two years after serving on the Accreditation Committee.

Elected members of the Accreditation Appeals Committee shall normally serve a two year term except for the first election when three of the members shall be elected for a one year term. A member may serve at most two terms consecutively.

A member of the Accreditation Appeals Committee shall cease to hold office:

- a) if the member resigns the office by written notice to the Secretary of the SSC;
- b) if the member is determined by a competent authority to be of unsound mind;
- c) if the member has been convicted of a criminal offense;
- d) if the member becomes bankrupt or otherwise insolvent;
- e) on the member's death;
- f) if the member ceases to hold the P.Stat. designation for any reason.

The SSC Board of Directors shall fill any vacancy by appointment to serve for the balance of the unexpired term. The appointed person will be a member of the SSC and will normally also hold the P.Stat. designation. The position will then be filled by election. The initial partial term will count as full term for the appointed member in determining consecutive terms held by that person.

Clarity and flexibility

#### 4.2.2 Chair of the Accreditation Appeals Committee

The Chair of the Accreditation Appeals Committee is the Past-President of the SSC.

#### 4.2.3 Duties of the Accreditation Appeals Committee

The Accreditation Appeals Committee deals with appeals of three types:

- a) appeals by applicants denied a P.Stat. or A.Stat. designation;
- b) appeals of loss of accredited status due to nonpayment of dues;
- c) formal complaints against P.Stat. or A.Stat. members alleging professional misconduct, professional negligence, abuse or misuse of the professional designation privilege, or conduct in breach of professional ethics.

The Accreditation Appeals Committee shall submit a written report describing its activities in the previous year to the Annual Meeting of the SSC. The report shall

maintain the confidentiality of all persons involved in any appeals that have been heard or resolved by mediation.

#### **4.3 Dissolution of Accreditation Committees**

clarity

The Board of the SSC may, upon three months **written** notice, dissolve the Accreditation Committee or the Accreditation Appeals Committee.

### ***5. Appeal Procedures***

All decisions, guidelines, and bases of the SSC and its Committees are solely to be determined in their unfettered and absolute discretion, not subject to any external appeal or review of any kind.

#### **5.1 Introduction**

Appeals of type a) or b) as defined in Section 4.2.4 shall be submitted in writing to the Chair of the Accreditation Appeals Committee. Appeals of type c) shall be submitted in writing to the President of the SSC.

For appeals of type a) or b), the Chair of the Accreditation Appeals Committee shall refer the appeal to the Accreditation Committee for reconsideration within 14 days of receiving the appeal. The Accreditation Committee will confirm or reverse its decision within 21 days and inform the Chair of the Accreditation Appeals Committee of the result. The Chair of the Accreditation Appeals Committee will inform the appellant of the decision. The appellant may then, in writing, withdraw the appeal or request a formal hearing as described in Section 5.2.

For appeals of type c), the President of the SSC shall first name a mediator, a member of the Accreditation Appeals Committee other than the Chair. The President will also determine the Chair of any appeal panel, normally the Chair of the Accreditation Appeals Committee, if such a panel is necessary.

The mediator shall provide a copy of the complaint to the member named in the complaint, hereinafter called the complained. The mediator will attempt an informal resolution. The mediator will not serve as an advocate for either side. The result of the informal resolution may be a withdrawal of the complaint or a decision by the complained to relinquish accreditation status.

Whatever the resolution, both parties must sign a written agreement on the resolution of the complaint.

If an informal resolution cannot be reached, the President shall name the Chair of the appeal panel, normally the Chair of the Accreditation Appeals Committee. The Chair of the panel shall select two members of the Accreditation Appeals Committee, other than the mediator, to serve on the panel. Decisions of the panel are made by majority vote with the Chair voting only in the case of a tie.

## **5.2 Conduct of a Formal Hearing**

Within seven days of the decision to convene a hearing, the appellant for appeals of type (a) and (b) and both the complained and complainant for appeals of type (c), here referred to as the parties, will be notified of the appeal panel membership. All notifications will be sent by registered mail, express post or other means that have a confirmation of receipt upon delivery.

Within 14 days of the decision to convene a hearing, the parties may notify the President of the SSC in writing of specifics of any apprehension of bias in the panel. The President of the SSC may choose other members of the Accreditation Appeals Committee to replace any or all of the panel's members and the SSC President-Elect or PR Officer to replace the panel Chair.

The appeal panel will convene a formal hearing within 35 calendar days of the initial notification date that the panel has been formed. The parties will be notified of the date and time of the hearing. Any person with interested in the proceedings, as solely determined by the panel, may be added as a party. Additions to the parties with interest may include a representative of the appellant, a witness of the complaint and a representative of the complained.

All parties must provide the Chair of the appeal panel with written submissions, at least seven days prior to the hearing. The Chair of the appeal panel will distribute these submissions to the parties at least three days prior to the hearing.

The hearing may be conducted in person or by some remote conferencing means (e.g. teleconference). The hearing for appeals of types (a) and (b) will usually be held by remote conference, while those of type (c) will usually be held in person. There should be unanimous consent for the mode of a hearing by the appeal panel and all parties with a declared interest. If unanimous consent cannot be reached, the appeal panel has the final authority. All members of the appeal panel must be present. If a party with a declared interest does not attend the hearing, the appeal panel may proceed in that party's absence.

All parties with a declared interest may make oral presentations. The appellant, complainant and the complained may call and cross-examine witnesses, and put forward explanation and defence.

The appeal panel will consider all documentation, written submissions and oral arguments. The panel will make a decision within seven days of the hearing. The Chair will communicate in writing the decision of the appeal panel to all interested parties.

A member may appeal the decision of the appeal panel to the Board of the SSC within 30 calendar days of the written decision by writing to the President of the SSC. The Board will review all documentation submitted to the appeal panel in coming to a final decision. The decision of the Board shall be final and no further appeal is possible.

### **5.3 Results of a Formal Hearing**

In appeals of type (a), the denial of accreditation status may be confirmed or the credential of A.Stat. or P.Stat. may be recommended to the Board. In appeals of type (b), a member's designation may be lost or the designation may be reinstated after payment of the appropriate fees.

In appeals of type (c), the panel may exonerate the complained, may advise or warn the complained about sound ethical practice, or may recommend to the Board of the SSC that the complainant's designation of A.Stat. or P.Stat. be revoked.

Accreditation may be revoked by the Board of the SSC if, in the sole opinion of the Accreditation Appeals Committee, an accredited statistician

- has refused or neglected to comply with the provisions of the SSC membership rules, or
- has willfully acted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the SSC or the statistical profession, including noncompliance with the Code of Ethics, or
- has supplied misleading information in an application for accreditation or maintenance.

The record of any advisements, warnings, or revocation of designation will remain on a member's file for 5 years.

## ***6. Conflicts of Interest***

A member of the Accreditation Committee or Accreditation Appeals Committee who has a conflict of interest with respect to an applicant or appeal shall declare that conflict of interest, and be absent from deliberations on the applicant or appeal. Conflicts of interest include but are not limited to the following:

- the Committee member knows the applicant or, in an appeal, knows the appellant or a party of interest;
- the Committee member has supervised the applicant or, in an appeal, has supervised the appellant or a party of interest in a graduate program;

- the Committee member has written a letter of reference for the applicant or, in an appeal, has written a letter of reference for the appellant or a party of interest within the previous six years.

In each case of a conflict of interest, the Board of Directors of the SSC will appoint a replacement for each member of the Committee found to be in a conflict of interest for the purpose of deliberations on the applicant or appeal. Each replacement must meet the criteria of person normally eligible to serve as an elected member of this Committee.

Ensures the committee maintains quorum in each case

Any accreditation member of the Accreditation Appeals Committee who has reviewed or participated in a decision about an applicant or an appeal may not be involved in any subsequent appeal of that decision.

## ***7. Public Information about Accreditation***

### **7.1 Registry of Accredited Statisticians**

The SSC maintains a public registry (e.g. a web page) of accredited statisticians. Inclusion in this registry does not represent an endorsement by the SSC. The type of information contained in the listing shall be approved by the Board, but includes the member's name, the level of accreditation, a postal contact, an email address, an optional link to a personal web page, and up to three areas of past and three areas of current expertise, identified by the member. If a member's accreditation lapses or is revoked, the member's information shall be removed from the public listing, normally within 90 days.

### **7.2 Member's Usage of Trademark**

An accredited member may indicate the level of accreditation (A.Stat. or P.Stat.) obtained. The member may not state that the designation is an endorsement by the SSC. If a member's accreditation lapses or is revoked, the member must cease usage of the trademark within 90 days in the case of a lapse, and immediately in the case of revocation.

## ***8. Interpretation***

Change: revocation now means immediately, not after 90 days.

Should a conflict arise between the English and French version of any accreditation or appeal documentation, the Board of Directors shall interpret the documentation in its sole determination.

## ***9. Reciprocal Agreements***

This was never written and there are no such reciprocal agreements in place.

The SSC Board reserves the right to enter into reciprocal agreements with other professional statistical bodies whereby designations could be deemed to be equivalent to the A.Stat. and P.Stat. of the SSC. In such cases, holders of the deemed equivalent designations may apply to the SSC for use of the A.Stat. or P.Stat. designations for practice in Canada.



Such reciprocal arrangements will be posted publicly on the SSC website as they arise.

## ***10. Appendices***

### **10.1 Appendix A: P.Stat. Knowledge and Competency Requirements**

The educational requirements for the P.Stat are the same as those for the A.Stat. The P.Stat. is awarded in recognition of substantial experience in the competent and ethical practice of statistics beyond the level of the A.Stat. In the minimum of 6 years of statistical practice, a P.Stat. applicant is expected to acquire substantial statistical knowledge and competence. This appendix describes this knowledge, and competency and the criteria to be used in their assessment on P.Stat applications.

The applicant should consider the following types of activity in terms of developing knowledge and competency in statistical practice. The list is indicative rather than exhaustive:

- time spent on professional activities (consulting, collaboration, or work with practitioners in an area of application) while a graduate student. Time as a graduate student may count for up to three years towards the required six years of experience
- leading statistical projects requiring a significant amount of statistical analysis or modelling
- undertaking statistical analysis of data and reporting on the results
- having responsibility for the interpretation and presentation of statistical information
- designing statistical databases and reporting systems
- teaching statistics based on practice;
- consulting, collaboration or work with practitioners in an area of application and any resulting teaching of statistics
- statistical consultancy;
- carrying out research to develop new methods to solve significant applied statistical problems;
- taking responsibility for the design and analysis of statistically based surveys;
- managing a statistics section with work in one or more of the above areas;
- carrying out work generally recognized as having made a significant contribution to the good practice of statistics.

Further expansion on the knowledge and competency requirements may be found on the SSC website.

In this document, generalities should be the case; particulars are put in separate documents where they can be more or less detailed and easily changed.

## 10.2 Appendix B: Other relevant documents

The website of the Statistical Society of Canada contains many documents relevant to accreditation, some of which have been referenced above, others of which provide further guidance, expansion, and current interpretation of some of the details of this document.

The website of the Statistical Society of Canada is [www.ssc.ca](http://www.ssc.ca); relevant documents to be found there include:

- The Statistical Society of Canada's Accreditation Brochure  
[www.ssc.ca/main/about/accreditation/accreditation\\_e.pdf](http://www.ssc.ca/main/about/accreditation/accreditation_e.pdf)
- The Statistical Society of Canada Code of Ethical Statistical Practice  
[www.ssc.ca/main/about/accreditation/ethics\\_e.pdf](http://www.ssc.ca/main/about/accreditation/ethics_e.pdf)
- Further elaboration, guidance and examples of educational requirements for A.Stat.
- SSC accreditation of educational programs in statistics
- Further elaboration, guidance and examples of P.Stat. knowledge and competency requirements
- Guidelines for professional development
- Mentoring

URLs change, so we might want to have only [www.ssc.ca](http://www.ssc.ca) appear here.

The designations A.Stat. and P. Stat. are registered trademarks which have been filed with the Canadian Intellectual Property Office of Industry Canada of the Government of Canada under the application numbers 1201955 and 1201953 respectively. The legal description of these trademarks can be found in the trademarks database on their website [http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc\\_mrksv/cipo/welcome/welcom-e.html](http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc_mrksv/cipo/welcome/welcom-e.html) or [http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc\\_mrksv/cipo/welcome/welcom-f.html](http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc_mrksv/cipo/welcome/welcom-f.html).

Simply search the database for either A.Stat. or P.Stat.

Since the person is applying for trademark usage, they should have a pointer to the trademark from this document,