Ying Zhang, PhD   May 18, 2015
Director of Education
Department of Biostatistics
Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health
IUPUI

Dear Prof. Zhang,

Thank you for sharing with us your proposal for a dual MS degree (Biostatistics-Applied Statistics/Statistics) program between your Department and the Department of Mathematics at Shanghai Jian Tong University (JTSU).   As I already indicated to you, I believe this proposed dual MS degree program could serve as a model for similar collaborative MS degree programs within our state; for instance, between your IU-FSPH MS in Biostatistics and our IUPUI/Purdue MS in Applied Statistics. We are happy to explore this possibility further with you.

The three SJTU courses, *Measure and Probability Theory* (MPT), *Statistical Inference and Decision* (SID) and *Advanced Mathematical Statistics* (AMS), that are designated in your proposal to satisfy the STAT 51900 (*Introduction to Probability*) and the STAT 52800 (*Mathematical Statistics I*) requirement in your Biostatistics MS program, are indeed so. In fact, the JTSU MPT course is presented at a more advanced level than our STAT 51900 and its equivalent here and elsewhere. It is a measure theoretic version of probability that only very few places are still delivering in a Masters' level program in statistics (or theoretical statistics). I therefore do not see any problem with the proposed credit transfer of the MPT course with either the SID or the AMS course for students who have taken them in JSTU.

Sincerely,

Ben Boukai, Ph.D.
Professor of Statistics