

1116-T5-2376 **Brian R Zaharatos*** (brian.zaharatos@colorado.edu), Engineering Center, ECOT 331,
University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309-0526. *Statistics as a Liberal Art.*

Statistics is often classified as a branch of mathematics or as one of the “mathematical sciences”. For example, the Department of Statistics at the Florida State University claims that “Statistics is the *mathematical science* involved in the application of *quantitative principles* to the collection, analysis, and presentation of numerical data.” [italics added]. Such classifications give the impression that statistics is essentially about numerical manipulation, calculation, and procedure. But at the same time, such classifications conceal a number of important philosophical issues in statistical theory and practice. In this paper, I argue that (1) a number of philosophical issues arise in statistical theory and practice; (2) in part because of these philosophical issues, statistics is better classified as a branch of philosophy, and thus, a liberal art; and (3) classifying statistics as a liberal art would be beneficial for attracting students that are otherwise not initially attracted to the mathematical sciences. (Received September 22, 2015)