PURPOSE: Statistics 684 provides students with practical experience in the application of statistical theory and methods to problems from a wide variety of disciplines. This experience is designed to expose students to a diverse variety of problems and clients. In addition, students will have an opportunity to develop nontechnical consulting skills, for example, explaining statistical concepts to non-statisticians, writing reports, and making oral presentations.

CONSULTING HOURS: Each Team must schedule four hours per week for consulting appointments. Clients make appointments by
To request assistance please email helpdesk@stat.tamu.edu with the following information:

1. Name, Department, Advisor’s name (if a student);
2. Phone number if you would like to be contacted by phone;
3. Student status: undergraduate, masters or PhD;
4. Non-student status: Faculty, Research Associate
5. Indicate what statistical software you are using for your analysis;
6. Provide a description of your research;
7. State any questions you would like us to address
8. Attach your data sets, and any other relevant documents (eg. survey, research plan), to your email.
9. The instructor will assess your project and assign it to a pair of student consultants if it fits within the parameters of our course. Your consultants will contact you via email or phone to arrange the first appointment.

WEEKLY MEETING: In addition to the scheduled consulting hours, there will be a weekly meeting of the STAT 684 students and instructor on Tuesday at 4:00 pm in Room 411 Blocker. At this meeting students will have an opportunity to discuss consulting sessions from the previous week. We will share ideas on how best to advice our consulting clients.
CONSULTING REPORTS: Students are required to keep a record of consulting sessions by completing a report form for each session. The reports are to be submitted to the STAT 684 instructor at the weekly meetings. A copy of the form is attached. In addition to these written reports, students will be asked to give an oral presentation at the weekly meeting.

GRADING: This course is graded on an S/U basis. In order to receive a grade of S, the student must submit the required weekly reports and give at least one oral presentation during the semester. In addition, each student is expected to have at least one Major consulting project. A major project is defined as one that involves more than one consulting session with a client and is more than providing assistance with SAS/SPSS/JMP code. It should include several stages of the research project, for example, designing a survey or experiment, determining the number of observations required to meet clients’ goals, discussing appropriate analysis, and the interpretation of the analysis. The STAT 684 student will prepare a written report of the major project and give an oral presentation. The report and presentation will discuss the purpose of the study, the various aspects considered in arriving at the suggested analysis, and the results of the analysis. If possible, and if permitted, an electronic copy of the data should be made available to the instructor.

STAT 684 PROJECT REPORT - Spring 2011

Your project for STAT 684 will be for each team to select their most interesting consulting session and write up a 5-10 page report consisting of the following:

1. Purpose of the study from the client’s point of view.
2. Description of the experimental design and manner in which data was collected.
3. Description of the proposed statistical analysis with a discussion of any limitations of this analysis.
4. Conclusions
5. Suggestions for an improved study
6. Include data if it is available.

Each team will make an oral presentation during the last two weeks of class and the written project reports are due 5 pm on Thursday, May 5, 2011. You may email me a pdf file or place a hard copy of the report in my mailbox.
Welcome to the website of the ASA section on Statistical Consulting!

Statistical consulting is the most challenging and most rewarding part of statistics. A consultant uses the art and science of statistics to solve a practical problem. Problems come from many different fields, e.g. marketing, product design, manufacturing, medicine, agriculture, or genetics, but many of us specialize in just a few application areas. Some consultants work at universities or medical centers, some work in industry, and many run their own business. Good consulting requires a strong technical background in statistics, good people skills, and for many, a good business sense. Other sections of the ASA help with the technical aspects of statistics. The statistical consulting section is here to help with everything else.

The Directory of Statistical Consultants is up and running. Section members will be able to post their availability and consulting expertise. Instructions can be found at the end of this newsletter pages 14 - 16.

The new edition of the Statistical Consulting Newsletter, edited by Chris Holloman, is here. Previous editions can be found in the Newsletter subsection of this web-site. Every issue has a variety of interesting articles. This issue includes items about Statistics and the Internet and JSM 2009.
Home >> About Us >> Resources >> Helpdesk

Statistical Consulting Center
Department of Statistics
Texas A&M University

What is the Statistical Consulting Center?
A service offered by the Department of Statistics to provide statistical advice to students at Texas A&M University who are engaged in unfunded research.

Who provides the advice?
Senior graduate students in the Department of Statistics who are enrolled in a consulting class for credit. The student consultants are monitored by the instructor.

When is the service available?
Because the service is provided by students taking a class, it is only operational during the semester.

What type of advice is available?
Assistance in
- the design of the experiment or survey;
- determining the appropriate analyses of the data; and
- the interpretation and the conclusions to be drawn from an analyses.

How do I utilize the service?
To request assistance please email helpdesk@stat.tamu.edu with the following information:
- name, department, advisor's name;
- phone number if you would like to be contacted by phone;
- student status: undergraduate, masters or PhD;
- what statistical software you are using for your analysis;
- a description of your research, and
- the particular question you have at the moment.

Attach your datasets, and any other relevant documents (e.g., survey, research plan), to your email. The instructor will assess your project and assign it to a pair of student consultants if it fits within the parameters of our course. Your consultants will contact you via email or phone to arrange the first appointment.
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS CONSULTING SESSION RECORD

CONSULTANTS: _______________________________ DATE: ________

CLIENT: ______________________ DEPARTMENT: ______________________

PHONE NUMBER: _______________ EMAIL: ____________________________

FACULTY: Y N

STUDENT: U MS/MA PhD RESEARCH ADVISOR ________________________

OTHER: ______________________________

FUNDED RESEARCH SOURCE: ________________________________

BRIEF STATEMENT OF CONSULTING PROBLEM:

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Team 3:
Team 4:
Team 5:
Team 6:
Team 7: