STATISTICS 684 - Professional Internship

Statistical Consulting

Instructor: Michael T. Longnecker
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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 nonstatisticians, writing reports, and making oral presentations.

CONSULTING HOURS: Each student must schedule three hours per week (six hours in summer session) of “Help Desk” for EACH hour of STAT 684 credit. These times should be scheduled with the staff person in Room 447 on the Help Desk Master Schedule.

WEEKLY MEETING: In addition to the scheduled consulting hours, there will be a weekly meeting of the STAT 684 students and instructor. 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. These reports are to be submitted to the STAT 684 instructor at the weekly meetings. The reports should be written in grammatically correct English, using complete sentences, correct spelling and punctuation. Typed reports are preferred. In addition to these written reports, each student will 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 SAS 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 analyses, and the interpretation of the data 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 analyses, and the results of the analyses. If possible, and if permitted, an electronic copy of the data should be made available to the instructor.


STUDENTS SUBSTITUTING CONSULTING EXPERIENCE FOR STAT 684 REQUIREMENT

A student who is receiving STAT 684 credit by substituting consulting experience through employment or research assistantships may, but is not required to, attend weekly meetings. The student must submit weekly reports of her or his consulting activities to the STAT 684 instructor and is encouraged to give an oral presentation on at least one of her or his consulting activities. The faculty member for whom the student is working may require other written reports and is responsible for determining the student’s grade.

REMINDER: A student seeking to use outside consulting to satisfy STAT 684 requirements must get approval from the Assistant Department Head prior to the beginning of the semester in which she or he will be enrolled for STAT 684.