Data Analysis Practicum

Final Report

Due 10 May 2019 by 11:59pm.

It's time for you to present your final written report detailing the work you've done for this class. Your report will have two parts—a research / data analysis report in the style of an academic paper, and a short work report describing what you have done over this semester to grow your skills as a statistician. Details on these two parts are given below.

Your *research report* should be no more than 12 double-spaced pages. It should provide an introduction to the data set, its historical context, and the particular scientific question(s) you've chosen to investigate. Feel free to use the standard methods / results / discussion framework if you like, or another framework if you feel that will better serve the narrative you want to give regarding your question. Make efficient use of figures and tables to help you tell your research story. Think of this research report like you'd think of an initial draft of a submission for a student research journal.

I intend for your *work report* to give me a clear sense of how you've used this semester to enrich your statistical and professional skills. As I've said, my intention with this class has been to provide some instruction on career skills for statisticians and to provide guidance to help you through a less structured data analysis, more like what you'll encounter after graduation. I'm not terribly interested in hearing about what you may have learned from me—I know what I've talked about with each of you. I'm more interested in hearing about what you've done on your own. What new methods have you researched, read, and learned about to tackle this data set? What practical difficulties and complications have you encountered in this project, and what actions have you taken to overcome them? What insights have you had, if any, about the real-world practice of statistics outside guided academic settings? Your work report should be no more than 4 double-spaced pages.

I will be out of town by the time your report is due. Please make your report submissions by email, to my regular department email address. If you find that your report exceeds 2 megabytes, let me know before the due date and I'll provide an alternative submission route (another email address or a dropbox account) to ensure I can get your report.