

University of Florida College of Public Health and Health Professions
PHC xxxx: SAS Applications

Instructor:

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Class meeting time: (1 period)

Office hours: TBA

Co-requisite: During the course, students must be working independently on a research oriented data analysis project using SAS.

Prerequisites: Students must have completed PHC xxxx: SAS for Public Health - Data and PHC xxxx: SAS for Public Health Analysis. Students should have completed PHC 6011 or an equivalent SAS-based biostatistics or analysis course. Students must also have access to a laptop with **SAS version 9.2** for in-class use. (Other computing requirements are found at <http://www.mph.ufl.edu/students/onlinecomputer.htm>.)

Description: This is a one credit course providing students an environment for discussion of data management and analysis in their research using SAS. During the course, each student will apply his or her SAS knowledge to a specific data analysis research project. Students will use many resources for SAS documentation, resulting in skills that promote independent understanding of the application of SAS for analyzing data in current and future research.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course students will:

- Be familiar with concepts, technical issues, and applications of SAS programming.
- Be able to use SAS programming to analyze specific datasets with planned hypotheses.
- Be able to discuss and interpret SAS output related to hypotheses of interest.

Textbook: The Little SAS Book: A Primer 4th ed., by Lora Delwiche and Susan Slaughter

E-Learning: An E-Learning site will be available for the course. Grades, discussion boards, and possibly other information will be available in the E-Learning system. E-learning is accessible at lss.at.ufl.edu or through my.ufl.edu. You must have a valid Gatorlink ID and password. For assistance, call the UF Help Desk at 392-HELP.

Grading: Your grade in this course will be based assignments and class participation. Total points earned will be based on the following:

- Class Participation (20%)
- Initial Project Specification (20%)
- Project Progress Assignments (20%)
- Presentation of Program and Results (20%)
- SAS Program and Written Discussion of Results (20%)
- Class participation assessment will include attendance/tardiness, preparation for class, and participation in discussions.

- Progress Assignments will be collected regularly. Students will be asked to provide and explain their SAS code and progress. Students will also be asked to discuss significant changes to their SAS code over time and explain any important lessons learned.
- At the end of the semester, each student will provide and present their final SAS program(s) and discuss the results with the class. Students will also provide a written discussion of the results.

The grading scale for this course consists of the standard scale, including minus grades, below. The conversion factors for grade point values assigned to each grade are also included (in parentheses):

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 93% - 100% = A (4.00) | 73% - 76% = C (2.00) |
| 90% - 92% = A- (3.67) | 70% - 72% = C- (1.67) |
| 87% - 89% = B+ (3.33) | 67% - 69% = D+ (1.33) |
| 83% - 86% = B (3.00) | 63% - 66% = D (1.00) |
| 80% - 82% = B- (2.67) | 60% - 62% = D- (0.67) |
| 77% - 79% = C+ (2.33) | Below 60% = E (0.00) |

Class Attendance: Class attendance is mandatory. Excused absences follow the criteria of the UF Graduate Catalogue (e.g., illness, serious family emergency, military obligations, religious holidays), and should be communicated to the instructor prior to the missed class day when possible. UF rules require attendance during the first two course sessions. Regardless of attendance, students are responsible for all material presented in class and meeting the scheduled due dates for class assignments. Finally, students should read the assigned readings prior to the class meetings, and be prepared to discuss the material except for the first class session.

Classroom etiquette: Please come to class on time and be prepared to stay until the time scheduled as the end of class. Pagers and cell phones should not be used in class. The use of cell phones, text messaging, and pagers is a common complaint from students. Please turn them off. Or, if you expect urgent calls, set them to “vibrate.” Another common complaint is “side” conversations among students. Please consider that your conversation may interrupt the attention of someone seated near you. Generally, you should be speaking to the class as a whole or participating in group discussions as directed by the instructor. I welcome in-class questions. Your question will nearly always be one that other students also have.

Policy on Make-Up Work: Students are allowed to make up work ONLY as the result of illness or unanticipated circumstances warranting a medical excuse and resulting in the student missing a homework or project deadline, consistent with College policy. Documentation from a health care provider is required. Work missed for any other reason will receive a grade of zero.

Academic Integrity: At the University of Florida, each student is bound by the academic honesty guidelines of the University and the student conduct code printed in the Student Guide and on the University website. The Honor Code states: “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.” Cheating or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

My personal expectations and comments regarding academic integrity: Students will often be encouraged to discuss the material with other members of the class on homework and other assignments. I believe we learn best when individual learning and group cooperation are present. However, I expect that no student will ever do any of the following:

- Have another person complete any assignment in this course
- Copy another student’s work on any assignment in this course

- Use materials provided by a previous student in the course for any purpose
 - Do not seek to obtain or accept offers of such materials (delete any materials you obtained prior to the beginning of the course)
 - I will often provide exactly the same information (unless I have changed it for the better)
 - I will provide any information from past semesters that I feel will help you

I believe that one of the reasons academic integrity is becoming a large issue in colleges and universities is that, for whatever reason(s), students tend to be more concerned about the grade they will obtain in the course than they are interested in learning the material. I want to stress that in this class, if you focus on learning the material and worry less about the grade you will receive, you will be rewarded with knowledge that will be much more useful to you in the future than the difference between an A, B, or even C in this class.

Schedule: Adjustments to this schedule are possible during the semester based on student projects identified in the first week. The instructor will strive to be informative and fair regarding any changes.

| Week | Assignment Information | Activity |
|-------------|--|--|
| 1 | Initial Project Specification Assigned | Introduction to Course Discussion of student research |
| 2 | | Discussion: Project Specification |
| 3 | Initial Project Specification Due | Discussion: Plan your analysis |
| 4 | | Discussion: Initial Data Management |
| 5 | | Discussion: Initial Analysis |
| 6 | Project Progress 1 Due | Discussion: Error Checking |
| 7 | | Discussion: Improving your SAS Code |
| 8 | | Discussion: Finalizing Data Management |
| 9 | Project Progress 2 Due | Discussion: Finalizing Data Analysis |
| 10 | | Discussion: Improving your SAS Code |
| 11 | | Discussion: Critique your Code |
| 12 | Project Progress 3 Due | Discussion: Student Choice |
| 13 | | Discussion: Reviewing the Big Picture |
| 14 | | Final Presentations |
| 15 | Final SAS program and written discussion | Final Presentations |

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Students requiring accommodations must first register with the Dean of Students' Office. The Dean of Students' Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the faculty member when requesting accommodation. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework. We all learn differently; however, if you have experienced problems in university classes with writing, in-class exams, understanding or concentrating in class; please talk to us or access a learning or education testing resource at the University or in another professional setting. For your assistance, should you need them, please consider either of the following:

University Counseling Services

<http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/services.asp>

P301 Peabody Hall – 392-1575

Student Mental Health Services in the Student Health Care Center

<http://www.health.ufl.edu/shcc>

Room 245, Infirmary Bldg.- 392-1171