

Supplementary Material A: Example of email circulated as an invitation to propose projects for data analysis capstone / practicum class (STA 475)

Greetings,

I am teaching the Data Analysis Practicum/undergraduate capstone Class (STA 475) this Spring. I have 15 seniors enrolled in this class. These students have had a basic stat inference class + a regression/experimental design course sequence + about 1/3 of them have taken the statistical programming class. Last year, students in the graduate version of this class worked on problems brought to them by faculty members, graduate students and staff from university offices. The students produced both oral and written presentations for clients and based on their analyses. In one case, the students produced a Powerpoint presentation of sample size planning that has been used in OARS training.

I am casting my net far and wide for projects. I would like to invite you to put my students to work :-). In particular, would you, your students, your office have a project where some statistical assistance might be beneficial? This could include but isn't restricted to study design (e.g. determining sample sizes for a study, providing input on a survey or experimental design, etc.), data analysis (descriptive summaries and formal modeling) and report write-up. Given that the class is scheduled for the Spring semester, it is best to have a mix of projects with some having short-term deliverables (e.g. an analysis that could be completed in a week or two) and other projects with longer-time frame deliverables (although I like to minimize projects with a 4 month time frame for obvious reasons, and I don't want these students spending time with routine data entry tasks although some data management such as converting spreadsheet entries into usable data sets is fine). I ask that you or your student(s) come and meet with the class to present the problem, and then the STA 660 students will work on a solution that would be presented to you. A formal presentation and a written report will be prepared for each client. I supervise and mentor the STA 475 student work on these projects. BTW, I anticipate that this class could complete 15 +/- 8 projects over the course of the semester.

If you have a project(s) where statistical assistance might be valued, then let me know. Please send me a short description of the project including: (on the email subject, please use the convention - SUBJECT: STA 475 project: your name - project title)

1. Short descriptive project title
2. Goal of the analysis (e.g. design phase - project planning; data analysis, etc.)
3. Data to be analyzed (e.g. Excel data sheets)
4. Type of statistical analysis anticipated (e.g. logistic regression, anova models, etc.)
5. Timeline for analysis (when are results needed).

Thanks for reading this far. Depending on the level of interest, I may not be able to fit all projects into the Practicum class. In this case, I will coordinate other projects with the Statistical Consulting Center. Please circulate to colleagues who might be interested (with my apologies for missing them on this initial mailing).

Thanks,