STAT 450, Case Studies in Statistics
STAT 550 (Techniques of Statistical Consulting)
TERM 2 of 2016-2017

As part of our ongoing efforts to bring current research into the classroom and promote interdisciplinary collaborations, the students enrolled in STAT 450 (Case Studies in Statistics) will provide free statistical analyses in Term 2 of 2016-2017. In addition, a group of graduate students enrolled in STAT 550 (Techniques of Statistical Consulting) will mentor and supervise a group of STAT 450 students, and peer-review their analyses and report. The students will be carrying out this academic activity under the co-supervision of Gabriela Cohen Freue (instructor of STAT 450 and STAT 550). The data will be treated with confidentiality within the courses and may be re-used in these courses on other years under your consensus.

If you are uncertain about how best to carry out the statistical analyses for some question arising in your research project and are willing to have others explore your data relevant to that question, you likely have a suitable project for STAT 450/STAT 550. Research projects from all UBC-affiliated units and all levels of researchers (but particularly undergraduate and graduate students) are welcome. We prioritize well-focused projects with one or two specific questions to be addressed using already collected data.

Throughout the academic term, STAT 450 students will identify appropriate approaches to the analysis, carry these out, provide a report interpreting their results, and prepare a poster to summarize their work. STAT 550 students will mentor, supervise, and review undergraduate students' work. STAT 550 will also provide a short report with an extended analysis of your data.

To give the students the opportunity to practice and enhance their communication skills, we require a representative of your project to meet with the STAT 450 class 3 times to describe your research project in more detail, to answer questions the students may have in the course of their work, and/or to provide feedback on preliminary results. We expect that this will, to your advantage, result in a better final product.

To take advantage of this unique opportunity, please submit your project description to us before January 15th, 2017 (by e-mail to gcohen@stat.ubc.ca). A submission of at most one page (as a separate WORD file) is preferred. Your submission should consist of a concise description of your research problem in non-specialist language, clearly indicating the specific questions for which statistical analyses are desired. Supplementary material, if essential, can also be provided. Once your project is approved for STAT 450, you will need to provide the data set as an .xls, .txt, or .csv, with all the variables, including units and coding where relevant, clearly identified. The data will be treated with confidentiality within the course.

If you know others who might be interested in this opportunity, please pass on this information. Thanks in advance for submitting interesting projects for the students enrolled in STAT 450 and STAT 550 this term.

Gabriela Cohen Freue
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