

CALS Statistical Consulting Facility Policies

Effective July 1st, 2005

Entering the System

The primary and preferred way to enter the waiting list is by completing the sign-up form on our website, <http://www.cals.wisc.edu/calslab/signup.html>. The description of your request is of utmost importance, as it will help our staff connect you to the statistician who is best able to meet your specific needs.

Time Frame for Entry

You will receive confirmation within two business days of your request, and you will be contacted by a statistician to set up an appointment within two business days of confirmation. However, it may take up to one week before your first meeting with a statistician. Please contact us well in advance! In addition, be aware that it typically takes 2 – 4 meetings to completely address most questions. We want to offer the best possible help, and this often requires that you allow us some time to ponder on our own.

Scope of Assistance Provided

We are willing and able to work with you in many ways, including designing experiments, analyzing previously collected data, assisting with SAS, addressing reviewer comments, and writing or informally reviewing portions of grants or pending publications. In some cases, the nature of the help may warrant co-authorship for the statistician, and we believe that this can be agreed upon between the client and statistician in such situations.

Our goal is to gain a working knowledge of the science and logistics of your problem, while simultaneously giving you a working knowledge of the statistical theory and methods that we suggest. We believe that the most efficient and effective way to achieve this is to develop a collaborative relationship. This means that the statistical work will be performed either by you or together with the statistician. In particular, you should not expect the statistician to do all of the work for you. Almost all of your contact will be with your statistician, however some help may be referred to a computer consultant with a very specific objective. Please do not seek help directly from a computer consultant without the statistician's knowledge.

All users of the facility are eligible and encouraged to create an account on the CALS computing system, which includes secure, backed-up file storage and free use of the SAS statistical software.

Fair Usage Practices

We ask that you work with only one statistician at a time on any given project. If you are working on several distinct projects, you may request a different statistician for each project, or the same statistician for any or all of them.

If, for any reason, you feel that the help you are receiving is unsatisfactory, we suggest that you discuss the situation with your statistician first. If this does not resolve the problem, contact one of the lab supervisors listed below. We ask that you not re-enter the waiting list in such a situation.

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