Summary

* Consulting for Statistics, Computing and Analytics Research (CSCAR) has been providing free statistical consulting services to graduate students, faculty and staff since 1946.
* The University of Michigan is one of only a few U.S. universities providing these services for free.
* CSCAR hosts thousands of consulting appointments each year for students, faculty and staff from the Medical School, LSA, School of Public Health, School of Environment and Sustainability, College of Engineering, School of Information and other schools and colleges at the University of Michigan.
* CSCAR serves as a competitive advantage for researchers at the University of Michigan who are applying for grants from the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and other funding organizations.
* CSCAR provides these services at a net cost of only 3.5 full-time staff equivalents.

Testimonials

“I’ve consulted CSCAR experts multiple times over the years for help with ArcGIS software, mixed-effect modeling techniques, deep learning methods for image analysis, and high-performance computing. I also know a couple of colleagues who have benefited from (the) CSCAR's expert knowledge. I really appreciate the wide range of expertise that CSCAR offers. Its presence feels like an encouragement for people to practice statistics the right way, while also providing a space where I can seek second or third opinions on alternative statistical approaches.”

“ I believe that CSCAR gives UM researchers a huge advantage over national competition. CSCAR has helped my proposals survive the scrutiny of NIH review panels, which almost always have a statistician reviewing study designs. A CSCAR consultant in particular has contributed to the statistical designs/analyses of multiple funded NIH projects, and currently serves as a formal collaborator (without specified effort) on two of them. CSCAR's support allows us to focus on what we are good at--engineering research--rather than trying to fumble our way through complex statistical analyses. I think we will be less competitive without this service, or we'll have to spend a fraction of every grant to have a statistician with specified effort. That means less money going to COE given that we are always up against the NIH budget cap.”

“I have been using CSCAR services since 2015 and have published many studies with the help of CSCAR consultants. None of the CSCAR data analysis guidance could be replicated by AI tools such as Chat-GPT. My colleagues and I always include CSCAR as a statistical resource on our grant applications, and I believe that to be one of the reasons that I can get grants. If CSCAR is gone, then I cannot imagine what is going to happen to my future grant applications.”

“I can personally attest to CSCAR being instrumental to my earliest work at UMSI and my more recent projects. I continue to send students to CSCAR today, and they rely on its expert support. The loss of CSCAR would create a significant gap in our research infrastructure, especially for us who engage in interdisciplinary, applied, and community-facing work.”