

## Policy for Using SAS Certification Scores as the Final Exam Grade

For the latest information on SAS Certification, including registration instructions and authorized testing centers go to: <http://support.sas.com/certify/>

The SAS Certified Base Programmer for SAS 9 exam may be used in place of the final exam for STAT604. The SAS Certified Advanced Programmer for SAS 9 exam may be used in place of the final exam for STAT657. Scores will be awarded on a point for point basis. In other words, a score of 85 on the certification exam will count as a score of 85 for the final exam grade. When a certification score is used in place of a final exam score, it replaces the final in every way.

**DEADLINES:** ***You must complete the exam by the deadlines listed and authenticate your score according to the guidelines below or your certification score will not be used in the calculation of your final grade.*** Graduation candidates must take the exam and complete authentication by 9 p.m. CST, Wednesday, December 14, 2016 in order for it to be considered as a replacement for the final. All other students must take the exam and complete authentication by 9 p.m. CST, Saturday, December 17, 2016. It is not necessary for you to inform the instructor whether you will be taking the final or whether you want to use the certification score in place of the final exam. A SAS program is used to compute your semester grade and it will automatically select the appropriate scores to give you the best grade possible. The method for calculating grades is described in the syllabus and all scores will be posted on the eCampus gradebook. As a graduate level statistics student, you should be able to compute your own grade from this information and decide whether you want to take the final exam to try for a better GPA. However, if there are any problems verifying the authenticity of your certification score and you did not take the final exam, you will receive a 0 for your final exam grade. For this reason, it is recommended that you make every effort to have your certification score authenticated prior to the final exam.

### AUTHENTICATION:

1. As soon as possible after passing the certification exam, email your score to the professor so he will be aware of how many students will need to have their scores authenticated. For research purposes, the professor would like to have scores from everyone who takes the certification exam regardless of whether you pass or want to use your score in place of the final.
2. If you decide to use the score for your grade, a TAMU STAT department faculty or staff member must witness you logging into your Pearson VUE account and displaying your score report. An emailed copy of the score report does NOT suffice as authentication.
  - a. If you are on campus and take the exam early enough, you may ask the TTA to authenticate your score after class. If there is sufficient demand, we will schedule a day near the final exam date when you can go by Kim Ritchie's office in the STAT department to have her authenticate your score.
  - b. The professor will arrange and announce times at the end of the semester when all students can authenticate the score online using the Collaborate session used for the live lecture and Q&A sessions. The professor will temporarily make you a presenter at which time you will share your screen and the professor will witness as you log on to Pearson Vue and display your score report.