

## Tutorial: Getting Help in Stata

### Getting help

The ability to efficiently learn new commands is key to becoming proficient in Stata. Because Stata is commercial software, it has great documentation.

- Type `help summarize` to see the description of the summarize command.
- Type `search summarize` to perform a keyword search on the word “summarize.” The keyword search returns relevant Stata commands and user-written programs related to the keywords.
- Type `db summarize` to see the window for the summarize command pop up.

The help files show you all of the different options available for a command and a general description of the command.

Another resource is the Stata manual, which tells you exactly what calculations Stata does to generate the information that it returns.

If you would like more introductory information, Stata provides a “Getting Started with Stata” manual, that you can use to learn additional basic Stata commands.

If you want to do something in Stata but don't know how, your best bet is first performing an internet search using keywords. A good general Stata resource is UCLA's Stata website:  
<http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/stata/>.