Supporting Undergraduate Research Skills

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Amherst College and Duke University/RStudio

Preparing to Teach Workshop, July 28, 2018

nhorton@amherst.edu https://github.com/mine-cetinkaya-rundel/preparing-to-teach



Plan

- Why are research skills important?
- Research opportunities
- Infrastructure for research

ASA Guidelines for Undergraduate Programs in Statistics (2014)

- Graduates should be expected to write clearly, speak fluently, and construct effective visual displays and compelling written summaries
- They should demonstrate ability to collaborate in teams and to organize and manage projects
- They should be able to communicate complex statistical methods in basic terms to managers and other audiences and visualize results in an accessible manner
- There is pedagogical value in having students practice communication to identify gaps in their understanding.
- Communication skills need to dovetail with students' technical and statistical knowledge: excellent communication of inappropriate or incorrect analyses is counterproductive.



Why are research skills important?

AAC&U High impact practices (https://www.aacu.org/leap/hips)

Collaborative Assignments and Projects Collaborative learning combines two key goals: learning to work and solve problems in the company of others, and sharpening ones own understanding by listening seriously to the insights of others, especially those with different backgrounds and life experiences. Approaches range from study groups within a course, to team-based

research.

assignments and writing, to cooperative projects and

Why are research skills important?

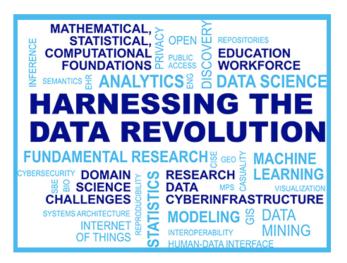
AAC&U High impact practices (https://www.aacu.org/leap/hips)

Undergraduate Research Many colleges and universities are now providing research experiences for students in all disciplines. Undergraduate research, however, has been most prominently used in science disciplines. With strong support from the National Science Foundation and the research community, scientists are reshaping their courses to connect key concepts and questions with students early and active involvement in systematic investigation and research.

Why are research skills important?

AAC&U High impact practices (https://www.aacu.org/leap/hips)

Undergraduate Research (cont.) The goal is to involve students with actively contested questions, empirical observation, cutting-edge technologies, and the sense of excitement that comes from working to answer important questions.



NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates



NSB

Research Areas

Funding

Awards

Home

REU Sites

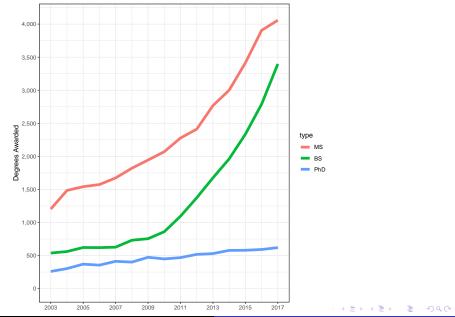
REU Sites: Mathematical Sciences

Please report errors in the list below by writing to reu.dms@nsf.gov.

Search Again



Statistics Graduates: How do we Scale Up?



Co-curricular Experiences

USPROC (Undergraduate Statistics Project Competition)
 https://www.causeweb.org/usproc

USCLAP Undergraduate Class Project Competition USRESP Undergraduate Research Project Competition

Co-curricular Experiences (cont.)



What Is ASA Datafest?

Hosting an Official ASA DataFest

What Is ASA DataFest?

The American Statistical Association (A undergraduates work around the clock to data set.

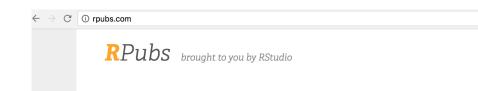
DataFest was founded at UCLA in 2011 gathered for 48 intense hours to analyze



Infrastructure for Research Projects (quick demos as time is available)

- RPubs.com
- github.com
- thesisdown

RPubs.com



Easy web publishing from R

Write R Markdown documents in RStudio.

Share them here on RPubs. (It's free, and cou

Get Started



RPubs.com



Data Analysis References Appendix

UN Votes

Mine Çetinkaya-Rundel 2018-07-28

Let's take a look at the voting history of countries i data from the **unvotes** package. Additionally, we we the analysis, and the **DT** package for interactive die

```
library(tidyverse)
library(unvotes)
library(lubridate)
library(DT)
```

github.com

GitHub Education

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The power of the Git and GitHub workflow, scaled for the needs of students.



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Where veteran teachers share tips, tricks, and scripts.

thesisdown

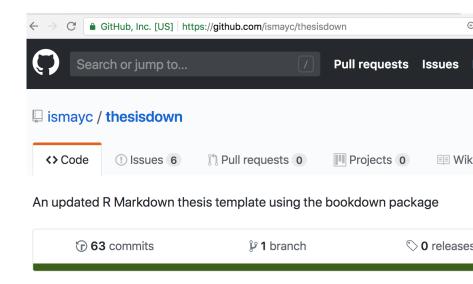


Table of Contents

Introduction	
Chapter 1: R Markdown Basics	
1.1 Lists	
1.2 Line breaks	
1.3 R. chunks	
1.4 Inline code	
1.5 Including plots	
1.6 Loading and exploring data	
1.7 Additional resources	
Chapter 2: Mathematics and Science	
2.1 Math	
2.2 Chemistry 101: Symbols	
2.2.1 Typesetting reactions	1
2.2.2 Other examples of reactions	1
2.3 Physics	1
2.4 Biology	1

How to Sustain?

- Faculty development (eCOTS, USCOTS, CAUSE, JSM, DataCamp, webinars)
- Regional affiliations (for joint undergraduate conferences)
- Local acknowledgemnt (value of creating these opportunities for students)
- More support for REU's to address dramatic growth in undergraduate statistics and data science majors

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