Suggestions for Getting Started with R in Predict 401

Learning R requires practice. A new user faces a steep learning curve. Take advantage of the instructional materials provided. You will be required to take a test the third week of the course that requires R programming. This test assumes you have studied and completed the *Quick Start Guide for R*. You will also be required to write programs in R for the two data analysis assignments. These assignments give practical applications of the language.

By the end of the course you will have learned the following R basics: (1) how to read a data file into a data frame, (2) how to install R libraries, (3) how to write a for loop, (4) how to write a R function, (5) how to make a basic graphical object, and (6) how to fit an OLS regression model, as well as, (6) how to subset a data frame, use aggregate() and apply(). Acquiring skills in these areas will benefit you in future courses.

The suggestions which follow will help you succeed with R in Predict 401.

1. **R can be obtained at http://cran.r-project.org/.** Instructions are shown in 01_Installing R | RStudio located in the *Resources for R* module on the course site. If you have questions contact Todd Peterson, the TA. Other sources of information include the course texts.

> **RStudio is recommended for new users of R.** It is not required. Everything students need to do in this course can be accomplished using the standard R console with a plain text editor. However, RStudio is an integrated development environment for R. Installer packages for RStudio are located at www.rstudio.com/. RStudio is easy to install and use.

2. **Read and complete the exercises in the *Quick Start Guide for R*.** Solutions are provided for these exercises. Study of this guide is recommended for new users of R. There is a test on the material in this guide due the end of the third session.

3. **Watch the R-related videos posted on the course site.** There is a video for each of the two data analysis assignments. Additionally, there are videos posted sequenced according to course sessions. These demonstrate the use of R on text book problems.

4. **If you have time**, take a look at the following resources in the *R Tutorial Materials* module.

   a. **View the Lynda.com Videos: "**Up and Running with R", "R Statistics Essential Training", and "Code Clinic: R".

   b. **Try the basic R programming lessons in *SWIRL*.** These lessons are quick and give immediate feedback. They provide practice on aspects of the language.

   c. **During the quarter, study and complete the optional *Lessons in R*.** These are listed in the weekly sessions and involve applications of R to solve course-related problems. These lessons provide the opportunity for additional practice with R.

5. **Be aware of the informational pieces listed in the *Resources for R* module.** These informational pieces address questions that have come up in the past.