

# Quick SAS Tips

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August 2019

# High Level Things to Know

- ▶ SAS is a statistical software package well suited to handling large data sets
- ▶ Federal data sets are commonly stored as SAS data files (these end in the extension sas7bdat)
- ▶ SAS can handle multiple data sets simultaneously and keep them in its remote memory.
- ▶ SAS is not case sensitive and has extensions for using other languages particularly SQL and Python.

# SAS Versions

SAS 9,4 is available for download for University of Maryland affiliates.

SAS can be accessed online via SAS Studio

# The basics of doing anything in SAS

## Loading in Data

- ▶ Most data is loaded, modified and saved within a data statement. This corresponds to:

```
data new; /*Saves new data*/  
set existing; /*Loads existing data set*/  
run; /*Runs or compiles the statement*/
```

- ▶ Performing analysis on an existing data follows the following structure:

# The basics of doing anything in SAS

## Analyzing Data

- Once the data is loaded, analysis can be run using the following general structure.

```
proc somecommand data=existing;  
intermediate statements;  
run;
```

# Finding and Working with Data

- ▶ By default SAS looks for data and stores data within a temporary working directory. This can be found in SAS's explorer window.
- ▶ Data sets also exist in a directory internal to sas called sashelp.
- ▶ Users can tell SAS to look at external directories with a libname statement.

```
libname somename "/specified/full/location";
```

# Working with Outside Data Locations

- ▶ Once a libname is specified, data can be loaded in and saved in other locations.
- ▶ Data can be saved by adding such a location to the data step.
- ▶ Here's a hypothetical example:

```
libname save "/specified/full/location";  
libname load "/specified/full/location2";
```

```
data save.data;  
set load.read;  
run;
```

# Exporting Data

- ▶ Data can be easily exported to other programs and format.
- ▶ Two formats frequently used are xlsx (excel) and dta (stata).

```
proc export data=somesasdata filename="\full  
location\  
dataname.extension" dbms=extension;  
/*Example of common extensions  
are .xlsx or .dta*/  
run;
```



# General Suggestions for Getting Started

- ▶ The commands shown here can be entered via SAS's program editor.
- ▶ The program editor will be the script that allows users to create and reproduce data and results.
- ▶ Unless data needs to be shared, there isn't a need to save it to a physical location. The working directory works.
- ▶ It is good practice to use a different name for data in the data step versus the set step—this prevents data from being overwritten.