



Statistical Consulting Service

www.yorku.ca/research/scs

A Proposal for SCS 2.0

(From meetings held May, 2022)

1

SCS: Current Services Overview

- Statistical Consulting
- Graduate Student Training/Supervision
- Short Courses
- Seminar Series

2

Current Services: Statistical Consulting

- Provide free consulting to the whole York community with a focus on
 - Undergraduate thesis research
 - Graduate student research
 - Post-doctoral and faculty research
- Also serve external clients
 - First hour free

3

Current Services: Statistical Consulting

- Our consultants are composed of:
 - Faculty members
 - Graduate students
 - ISR staff
- Our clients can sign up for 30 min or 1-hour appointments
 - Online appointment scheduler
 - Follow-up emails/discussion common

4

Current Services: Graduate Student Training/Supervision

- Four graduate student TAs from Psychology and three graduate student TAs from Mathematics/Statistics receive training in statistical consulting and advanced statistical methods
- There are also regularly students who are completing a practicum
 - E.g., to meet the requirements for the Quantitative Methods Diploma (Psychology)
- Graduate students are involved in all aspects of SCS (e.g., consulting, teaching/assisting with short courses, seminar series)

5

Current Services: Short Courses

- Short courses on statistical issues and software
 - E.g., Bayesian Modeling, Meta-Analysis, Introduction to R
- Psychology Dept also runs the QM Workshop series with short courses 2-3 times / year
- Clients can receive Certificates of Completion and/or Digital Credentials

6

Current Services: Short Courses

- Participants consist of:
 - York faculty members
 - York students
 - External researchers
- Instructors consist of:
 - Coordinators/Associate Coordinators
 - TAs of SCS
- Courses are very reasonably priced to ensure that cost is not a factor (usually around \$5/hr)

7

Current Services: Seminar Series

- Bi-weekly seminars on modern issues in statistics and data analyses
 - E.g., Bayesian analysis, causal inference, structural equation models
- Led by SCS Coordinators/Associate Coordinators
- Students and faculty members from several departments participate
 - Has grown from a handful of people to regularly >20 people in the last few years
 - Has led to multiple research collaborations

8

2020-2021 Consulting Data

- Total of 537 appointments* with 166 unique clients.

Academic Level	N	%
External to York	12	7
Faculty	18	11
MA/MSc	39	23
PhD	67	40
PostDoc	2	1
Undergraduate	19	11
Other/NA	9	5
Total	166	

*Online; down ~ 20% due to pandemic

9

2020-2021 Consulting Data

Unit	N	%
Biology	6	4
Business/Economics	3	2
Education	5	3
Environmental Studies	5	3
Geography	3	2
Health Policy	1	1
Kinesiology	24	14
Law	1	1
Nursing	3	2
Other	23	14
Psychology	87	52
Sociology	3	2

10

2019-2020 Consulting Data

- Total of >600 appointments to over 200 unique clients

Academic level	%
Faculty	7
MA/MSc	25
PhD	50
Undergraduate	15
PostDoc & other	3

Academic unit participation:

- Psychology: 40% (undergrad, MA, PhD)
- Kinesiology, Business, Education are substantial
- Others: Biology, Nursing, Environmental Studies. Geography, Law, Sociology

11

Proposed Costs

- Coordinators/Associate Coordinators
 - 1.0 FCE release for an SCS Coordinator
 - Or, equivalently, 2 x .5 FCE release for two SCS Coordinators
 - 2 x .5 FCE releases for Faculty of Health Associate Coordinators
 - .5 FCE release for Faculty of Science Associate Coordinator
- 4 x .5 TA positions from Psychology
- 3 x .5 TA positions from Science
- Appointment Scheduling Software (Appointmentquest)
- Professional Statistical Consultant (Hugh McCague)
 - 15 hours per week

12

Current Cost Structure

- Until 2021-2022, the Institute for Social Research paid .5 FCE for a faculty Coordinator
 - For many years, ISR paid 1.0 FCE
- Faculty of Health pays for two .5 FCEs
- Department of Psychology funds 4 x .5 TA positions
- Currently, the Faculty of Science only recognizes statistical consulting as a formal service contribution
 - Previously, Science (and Faculty of Arts) paid .5 FCE for a SCS Associate Coordinator
- Faculty of Science funds 3 x .5 TAs from Mathematics/Statistics
- Institute for Social Research provides a professional statistical consultant for 15 hours per week

13

SCS 2.0: Structural

- In order for SCS to be able to serve the York Community in a consistent, effective, and reliable manner, we recommend that:
 - SCS is run by Coordinators/Associate Coordinators
 - SCS reports to the Vice President, Research and Innovation

14

SCS 2.0: Funding

- What we have:
 - Faculty of Health provides 2 x .5 FCE releases for SCS Associate Coordinators
 - Department of Psychology provides 4 x .5 TA positions
 - Department of Mathematics/Statistics provides 3 x .5 TA positions

15

SCS 2.0: Funding

- What we need:
 - Obtain central funding for a 1.0 FCE release (or equivalent) for an SCS Coordinator
 - Obtain Faculty of Science support for a 1 x .5 FCE release for an SCS Associate Coordinator
 - A stable 5-year funding/review cycle

16