

Steps for Doing Online Homework in SAS, STATA, or R

1. Download the example files (data, syntax, and output in a .zip folder) that correspond to the homework (as given on the online syllabus). Extract the example files so that you can use them.
2. Log into the online homework portal. Using the links at the top of the page for that homework, download your individual dataset in .xlsx format and save it someplace you can access readily (such as the same place you saved the example files). Also click on the link to the “starter syntax” in your program of choice, which should open as text in a new browser window.
3. Open your program (SAS, STATA, or R), and open the example syntax file that corresponds to your homework. You will not need to edit this file—it will serve as a template for you to follow.
4. Open a new empty syntax file within your program (.sas in SAS, .do in STATA, or .R in R), paste in your starter syntax (the text from the browser window), and save it as a new name (that refers to your homework). You should now have two syntax files open—one that starts your homework, and one from the example that demonstrates how to estimate the models.
5. In the new starter syntax file from step 4, change the directory where your files are stored. In SAS, it's %LET filesave = ; In STATA, it's cd " ", and in R, it's setwd(" "). When using Virtual Desktop, this directory should be copied from Windows Explorer in Virtual Desktop (changing the \$ to : as needed for locations outside the H drive). Also change your ID number in the name of the .xlsx file to be imported (i.e., change the HW01_11111111.xlsx to your ID number).
6. Run your new syntax for defining the directory and importing the data. Verify that it worked (by looking at the imported data set) before moving on. Ask for help troubleshooting if needed!
7. Run the subsequent syntax given in the homework starter file to add labels to your variables (it should work without you needing to change anything).
8. Now you are ready to answer homework questions! Read the homework problems and locate corresponding syntax in the example that does the same sort of procedure (e.g., estimate an empty model, or a model with one predictor). Copy the example's syntax into your homework syntax and modify it as needed to work for your homework. Needed modifications will include changing the names of the variables (and potentially creating new centered predictors) in all three programs, as well as changing the name of the dataset in SAS and R. The homework instructions will tell you what variables to use as outcomes and predictors.
9. Do not overwrite your commands—for each model, make a new entry and add comments as to what it is for. Save your working syntax frequently, that way you won't lose your work!