



Division of Economic and Financial Studies

# STAT170T – Introductory Statistics

First Semester 2008

Unit Outline

Unit Convener: Linda Owens

Students in this unit should read this unit outline carefully at the beginning of semester. It contains important information about the unit. If anything in it is unclear, please consult one of the teaching staff in the unit.

## About this unit

Stat170 is a three credit point unit offered by the Statistics Department in the Division of Economic and Financial Studies at Macquarie University. There are no prerequisites nor co requisites for this unit.

Stat170 is a prerequisite for all 200 and 300 level statistics units and will be the first statistics unit taken by students intending to major in Statistics. It is also a requirement for many other areas of study and, as such, is a core unit for a number of courses at Macquarie University.

Stat170 provides a broad introduction to statistical practice and data analysis techniques. It aims to equip students with a basic understanding of statistics, such that they are able to employ appropriate methods of analysis in various circumstances. The techniques learnt are widely used in the sciences, social sciences, business areas and many other fields of study. Topics covered include study design, data manipulation, statistical inference, regression and analysis of categorical data.

## Teaching Staff

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Consultation times will be advised at the beginning of the semester and details will be available on the Stat170 Singapore web site:

<http://www.stat.mq.edu.au>

## Classes

Students should work through the Lecture material for each Session, using the Course Notes, the Lectures on the CD-Rom and iLectures on Blackboard.

Students should attend the following classes each week:

- ❖ 1 x 1 hour tutorial, beginning in Session 1
- ❖ 1 x 1 hour practical, beginning in Session 2

## Unit web pages

Information relating to Stat170 can be found by visiting the Macquarie University Statistics Department web site. The URL for this site is:

<http://www.stat.mq.edu.au>

Alternatively, the URL to access Blackboard directly is:

<http://learn.mq.edu.au>

## Text books and other reference materials

Use Discussions on Blackboard to communicate with other students and the staff.

Students will need to purchase a copy of:

- Stat170 Introductory Statistics Study Guide (includes a compact disc)
- Modern Statistics: A Graphical Introduction by McNeil et al

A calculator with statistical mode is essential and should be brought to all classes.

## Learning outcomes

By the end of this unit students should be able to:

- ★ organise and summarise data graphically and numerically
- ★ analyse data using appropriate techniques
- ★ draw conclusions from the results of data analysis

### Generic Skills

In addition to the discipline-based learning objectives, all academic programs at Macquarie seek to develop students' generic skills in a range of areas. One of the aims of this unit is for students to develop their skills in the following:

- ★ manipulating and analysing data using Excel and the statistical package EcStat
- ★ enhancing their problem solving ability
- ★ improving their written communication skills, particularly report writing skills
- ★ confidence in the use of the Internet for obtaining information and communicating with others in Online Discussions
- ★ improving their ability to work co-operatively as a team member

## Teaching and Learning strategy

### Lectures

Lectures begin in Session 1. Students should work through one lecture in each session of the semester, using the Course Notes, the Lectures on the CD-Rom and the iLectures on Blackboard. Students should also refer to *termfinder* at

<http://termfinder.mq.edu.au>

for definitions of important statistical terms.

### Tutorials

The first tutorial will be held in Session 1. In this tutorial, students will receive the Unit Outline and will be instructed in the organisation of the course and what is expected of them. Subsequent tutorials are based on work from the previous session's lecture. The aim of tutorials is to practise techniques learnt in lectures. Tutorials are designed for students to work together in groups. The emphasis on group work is to explore ideas, devise and ask questions and plan ways to answer them. We believe that working within a group framework will be beneficial for the educational and personal development of students.

### Practicals

Practicals begin in Session 2. Each practical session is based on work from the previous session's lecture. During these sessions you will use the statistical computer package EcStat and the techniques learnt during lectures to help solve statistical problems.

## Assessment

### COURSEWORK

Assignments	10%
GNATS	10%
WASPS	<u>10%</u>
	30%

### EXAMINATIONS

Class test	10% (or not counted)
Final Examination	<u>60%</u> (or 70% if class test not counted)
	70%

**Note that a mark of less than 15 in the coursework is considered to be unsatisfactory.**  
If you gain **less than 15** marks in the coursework, the highest grade you can receive is a **P**.  
If you gain **less than 10** marks in the coursework, the highest grade you can receive is a **PC**.

### **General Network Assessed Tests (GNATs)**

**10 marks**

Nine General Network Assessed Tests (GNATs) should be completed in your own time on any PC that is connected to the Internet. This material is designed to give you an opportunity to practise the mechanical aspects of statistics. GNAT7 is designed for revision and is worth 2%. All other tests are worth 1%. You are allowed three attempts at each GNAT and the highest mark of the three will be recorded. Due dates for Gnats are shown in the Unit Schedule. Please note that other important information regarding GNATs is outlined in the GNATs document (green) in the Stat170 Study Guide package.

### **Web Assessment Using a Statistical Package (WASPs)**

**10 marks**

In practical sessions you will use the beige worksheets provided in the Study Guide package. These have spaces to write your answers to the questions and exercises. These answers need to be transferred to WASPs on the Internet and will be assessed there. Each of these tests is worth 1%. Questions should be answered carefully as there is only one attempt allowed at each WASP. Information on how to access WASPs is given in Practical 0.

### **Assignments**

**10 marks**

There are two assignments, which should be submitted to your tutor. Assignments are to be submitted on the answer sheets provided. They give you an opportunity to develop good statistical practice and to reinforce and apply the concepts covered in lectures and the skills learned in practical sessions. Assignments must be submitted as a group, where a group should consist of two students from the same tutorial class. It is important that both students in the group contribute equally to the assignment. More information will be given in tutorial classes. Marks allocated to that assignment will be awarded to both students. Please see the front cover of the assignment for information on penalties.

### **Class test and examination**

**70 marks**

The class test will be held in Session 10 and will cover all material up to and including Lecture 8. A page of formulae and relevant statistical tables will be attached to the class test and the final examination. No additional material will be permitted in the class test. Students will be permitted to take one A4 sheet, handwritten on both sides, into the final examination.

Note that your mark for this section of the unit will be calculated as the better of:

- the class test (10%) plus the final examination (60%) OR
- the final examination only (70%)

Students MUST perform satisfactorily in the final examination in order to pass the unit regardless of their performance throughout the semester. Students should note that, if they fail the final examination, their coursework will not count and the SNG allocated will be their final examination mark.

You are expected to present yourself for examination at the time and place designated. The only exception to not sitting an examination at the designated time is because of documented illness or unavoidable disruption. In these circumstances you may wish to consider applying for Special Consideration. Information about unavoidable disruption and the special consideration process is available at

<http://www.reg.mq.edu.au/Forms/APSCons.pdf>

If a Supplementary Examination is granted as a result of the Special Consideration process the examination will be scheduled after the conclusion of the official examination period.

Note that there is a Division policy regarding requests for special consideration for examinations and the granting of supplementary examinations, which can be found at:

[http://www.efs.mq.edu.au/student\\_support/important\\_processes/special\\_consideration](http://www.efs.mq.edu.au/student_support/important_processes/special_consideration)

You are advised that it is Macquarie University policy not to set early examinations for individuals or groups of students. All students are expected to ensure that they are available until the end of the teaching semester - that is, the final day of the official examination period.

## Plagiarism

The University defines plagiarism in its rules: "Plagiarism involves using the work of another person and presenting it as one's own." Plagiarism is a serious breach of the University's rules and carries significant penalties. You must read the University's practices and procedures on plagiarism. These can be found in the *Handbook of Undergraduate Studies* or on the web at:

<http://www.student.mq.edu.au/plagiarism/>

The policies and procedures explain what plagiarism is, how to avoid it, the procedures that will be taken in cases of suspected plagiarism, and the penalties if you are found guilty. Penalties may include a deduction of marks, failure in the unit, and/or referral to the University Discipline Committee.

## University Policy on Grading

Academic Senate has a set of guidelines on the distribution of grades across the range from fail to high distinction. Your final result will include one of these grades plus a standardised numerical grade (SNG).

Your raw mark for a unit (ie. the total of your marks for each assessment item, including the final examination) may not be the same as the SNG which you receive. Under the Senate guidelines, results may be scaled to ensure that there is a degree of comparability across the university, so that units with the same past performances of their students should achieve similar results.

It is important that you realise that the policy does not require that a minimum number of students are to be failed in any unit. In fact it does something like the opposite, in requiring examiners to explain their actions if more than 20% of students fail in a unit.

The process of scaling does not change the order of marks among students. A student who receives a higher raw mark than another will also receive a higher final scaled mark.

For an explanation of the policy see:

<http://www.mq.edu.au/senate/rules/Guidelines2003.doc> OR

<http://www.mq.edu.au/senate/rules/detailedguidelines.doc>

Your final grade in Stat170 will be based on your work during semester and in the final examination as specified in the Assessment section above. The grades allocated are as set out in the Bachelor Degree Rules 10(2) as follows:

HD	High Distinction	denotes performance which meets all unit objectives in such an exceptional way and with such marked excellence that it deserves the highest level of recognition
D	Distinction	denotes performance which clearly deserves a very high level of recognition as an excellent achievement in the unit
Cr	Credit	denotes performance which is substantially better than would normally be expected of competent students in the unit
P	Pass	denotes performance which satisfies unit objectives
PC	Conceded Pass	denotes performance which meets unit objectives only marginally
F	Fail	denotes performance which does not meet unit objectives

## Computing

The Excel Add-in, EcStat, which is included on the CD Rom, will be used in practical sessions and for assignments. GNATs and WASPs can be completed on any PC that has access to the Internet.

# STAT170 T1 (2008) Introductory Statistics

## UNIT SCHEDULE

SESSION (Week beginning)	LECTURE TOPIC	TEXT Chapter	Assessment Due <i>(Note that all Gnats and Wasps are due by 10pm)</i>
24 March 1	Introduction Study Design Simple Displays	1, 2	Obtain Study Guide and Text Book. DEMO GNAT: 24/03 – 6/05 DEMO WASP: 24/03 – 6/05
2	Graphical Displays of continuous data	2	DEMO GNAT: 24/03 – 6/05 DEMO WASP: 24/03 – 6/05
31 March 3	Numerical Summaries & Distributions	3, 4	GNAT 1: 31/03 – 6/04 WASP 1: 31/03 – 6/04
4	Normal Distribution	4	GNAT 2: 2/04 – 8/04 WASP 2: 2/04 – 8/04
7 April 5	Sampling	5	GNAT 3: 7/04 – 13/04 WASP 3: 7/04 – 13/04
6	Confidence Intervals	6	GNAT 4: 9/04 – 15/04 WASP 4: 9/04 – 15/04 <b>Assignment 1 due</b>
14 April 7	Hypothesis Tests	7	GNAT 5: 14/04 – 20/04 WASP 5: 14/04 – 20/04
8	Comparisons: Two-sample Tests	8	GNAT 6: 16/04 – 22/04 GNAT 7: 16/04 – 29/04 WASP 6: 16/04 – 22/04
21 April 9	Examining Relations	9	WASP 7: 21/04 – 27/04
10	Testing and Assessing Relations	9	GNAT 8: 23/04 – 29/04 WASP 8: 23/04 – 29/04 <b>Class Test</b>
28 April 11	Categorical Data Analysis Hypothesis Tests	10	GNAT 9: 28/04 – 4/05 WASP 9: 28/04 – 4/05
12	Categorical Data Analysis Odds ratios	10	WASP 10: 30/04 – 6/05 <b>Assignment 2 due</b>
3 May 13	Unit summary		

*After completing a quiz you must View Results in order that your WASP is graded. If any of your WASPs appears as UNGRADED then you should select View Scores for Quizzes from the Wasps page and press Go. Click on the attempt that has not been graded and when you return to Scores your quiz will have been graded.*

Due dates for Gnats and Wasps: Note that you have several days to complete each quiz. You should complete these early, particularly your first attempt at each Gnat. If left until the last day then you may find that you have access problems and will lose the marks for that quiz. You should note that the cut-off dates on Blackboard are two days later than the due dates listed above. This is to allow for any problems which may arise with Blackboard. However, you should attempt all quizzes before the due dates.