Pace University
DigitalCommons@Pace

Cornerstone 3 Reports : Interdisciplinary Informatics

The Thinkfinity Center for Innovative Teaching, Technology and Research

6-1-2010

Improving the Teaching of Econometrics at Pace University Using Stata

Gregory Colman
Department of Economics, Dyson College, Pace University

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.pace.edu/cornerstone3

Part of the Econometrics Commons, and the Statistics and Probability Commons

Recommended Citation
Colman, Gregory, "Improving the Teaching of Econometrics at Pace University Using Stata" (2010). *Cornerstone 3 Reports : Interdisciplinary Informatics.* Paper 21.
http://digitalcommons.pace.edu/cornerstone3/21

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the The Thinkfinity Center for Innovative Teaching, Technology and Research at DigitalCommons@Pace. It has been accepted for inclusion in Cornerstone 3 Reports : Interdisciplinary Informatics by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Pace. For more information, please contact rracelis@pace.edu.

Thinkfinity Grant Final Report

Project Title: Improving the teaching of econometrics at Pace University using Stata

Cornerstone number: 3

Principal Investigator: Prof. Gregory Colman, Department of Economics, Dyson College, New York City

June 1, 2010

The goal of this grant was to improve the teaching of econometrics at Pace using the computer program, Stata, the most widely-used econometrics software among applied economists. The plan was three-fold: first, install Stata in the computer labs, so that it would be available to all students; second, have other members of the Economics department learn Stata and incorporate it into their quantitative classes; and third, teach it to Students and guide them in using it for their own research.

All parts of the plan have been accomplished. Stata 11 has been installed in the computer labs in rooms W205 and W206, which each has about 25 computers. We actually have licenses to install Stata in 100 computers, and plan to have it installed in other computer labs as the use of the program grows.

Professors Anna Shostya and Joseph Morreale have taken online courses in the program from Stata Corp. Prof. Morreale is using Stata as part of his research course, Eco 400. As part of this course, students come up with their own economic research questions, obtain the data, and then analyze it with Stata. This class, which is required to complete a major in Economics, generally has about 20 students, all of whom learn and are tested in Stata. A number of these students have completed impressive research projects that were subsequently presented at the Dyson Fellows meeting. For example, last year Alice Grinberg studied the effects of birth order on occupational choice, which earned her the award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research from the Economics Department. This year Erica Yuen and Vadim Kats also used Stata to produce research that they presented at the annual Dyson College Fellows meeting. Erica studied the effects of taking time off from work to look after young children on lifetime earnings. Vadim examined the benefits of World Bank development aid on economic growth. Vadim received a Dyson Fellows award for excellence in research, and Erica received the Economic department's award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research. Students who take my Quantitative Analysis class as an Honors option are also required to use Stata in their research projects. For example,

last semester, Yelena Fishbein analyzed the effects of unemployment on health, using the Census Bureau's monthly Current Population Survey.

So far the plan is achieving what I hoped: students learn not only a program that will help them get jobs, but a basic understanding of the steps involved in research, from collected the data to analyzing its implications. The goal of the Economics Department is to continue to teach Stata in Eco 400, Eco 240, and in any of our classes in which students must produce research.