

STUDY GUIDE

The
Chicago
Guide to
Writing
about
**Multivariate
Analysis**

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Preface

This study guide was designed to provide practice applying the principles and tools introduced in *The Chicago Guide to Writing about Multivariate Analysis*, with a problem set and a series of suggested course extensions for each chapter.

The problem sets reinforce the concepts and skills from each chapter, usually working with data or written examples provided as part of the question. Some require calculations, others involve creating or critiquing tables, charts, or sentences. They can be used as homework assignments for courses on regression analysis, research methods, or research writing, or independently by readers who are trained in regression methods. Solutions for the odd-numbered problems can be downloaded separately.

The suggested course extensions apply the skills and concepts from *Writing about Multivariate Analysis* to the actual writing process. They involve reviewing existing work, applying statistics, writing, and revising—using either your own work in progress or published materials (books, articles, reports, or Web pages) in your field or that of your intended audience.

The “applying statistics” questions require access to a computerized database that includes several nominal, ordinal, and interval or ratio variables for at least several hundred cases. Ideally these variables should be related to a research question involving application of multivariate regression that you can use for the exercises throughout the study guide, yielding a comprehensive analysis for a complete research paper. These exercises also require access to the accompanying documentation describing the study design, data collection, coding, use of sampling weights, and related methodological issues for the data set from which your variables are taken. If you do not have a data set and documentation that fits these criteria, you can often find them on CD-ROMS that accompany research methods or statistics textbooks, or you can download them from sites such as the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR).

Many of the suggested exercises for writing or revision entail peer-editing. They are most effective if done with one or more other people, whether as part of a course in which class time is devoted to these exercises, or working with a colleague. These exercises often involve writing or revising work to meet the instructions for authors for a leading journal in your field. Identify one or two such journals before you begin these tasks, allowing you to generate a coherent finished product for submission to that journal.