

Minutes for Beta Alpha Psi Meeting
11/8/2007

Presenter: Elizabeth Ceranowski

SAS: What is it? How does it pertain to the College of Charleston's Master of Accountancy Program?

SAS example

- Amazon.com
 - Uses SAS in order to suggest other products that a person buying a different product might also like to buy
 - Send out emails to customers who bought an item to tell them about a different item
 - This is just one brief example. SAS is EVERYWHERE

What is SAS?

- SAS is a software package
 - It is available on the Windows, Unix, and Mainframe platforms
- SAS allows you to manipulate, access, and analyze your data. It also can help you predict what will happen!
- Anyone who does anything with data can use SAS
 - That is why it is used in so many industries and so many academic departments
- Curious to know more?
 - SAS is used in: Retail, Shipping, Manufacturing, Accounting, and Most Government Agencies...to name a few
 - See the SAS website for success stories
- Why use SAS rather than Excel?
 - Excel is great on a small scale but there are limits to the number of columns and rows you can have
 - While in School (research aside), this might be enough for you. However, in an enterprise such as research or business, it is not a viable solution.
- Why use SAS rather than another package
 - Do a job search and you will see that people who know SAS are in high demand

SAS the company

- Began in 1966-1975 as a grant at NC State University
 - "Statistical Analysis System" was developed to analyze agricultural data
- 1976, when the grant ended, the independent company begins
- Today there are more than 400 offices globally in 51 different countries
- 10,087 employees
- 4.5 million users

Scarce Skills

- These skills differentiate you from other applicants
- Multiple Industries use SAS and have mostly the same content

- An enhancement to accounting, not necessarily a replacement
- Microsoft Excel is a tool not a solution such as SAS
- Who uses it?
 - Financial Services 39.5%
 - Manufacturing 11.7%
 - Government 14.6%

Elizabeth's Story

- Education
 - Master Degree in both Math and Computer Science
- First Job
 - Went to school always wanting to be a C++ computer programmer. However, that was no longer a feasible option
- Transition
 - When C++ wasn't going to work out for her she got her SAS certification
- Dream Job
 - Now she works for SAS and teaches the program to others. She also helps people with SAS certification find jobs

MACC program at the College of Charleston

- Advice: DON'T WAIT
 - SAS gets constant calls from clients looking for people with SAS skills
 - SAS Student Network
 - Connects students with SAS skills with SAS customers who are looking to hire.

Questions

- In basic terms what is SAS?
 - Basically it is lots of different things
 - Window that you can type in using the SAS syntax in order to query using specific data and come up with output
 - The presenter opened up the SAS program for a demonstration
- Is SAS user friendly?
 - Depends on your background
 - Once you learn some of the basic syntax...good to go
- What are the requirements for certification?
 - 2 classes: SAS 1 and SAS 2
 - Pass the exam: 70 multiple choice question exam. 65% to pass
- What are the benefits of SAS certification?
 - Stands out to employers
 - Equivalent to 1 year of experience
- How is SAS used in Accounting?
 - Dr. Trinkle fielded this question and gave some real life examples and explained the benefits of SAS in the real world
 - Used in determining Allowance for Doubtful Accounts
 - Ford looks at every customer who they have given a loan to and rates them in order to estimates each customer's ability to pay