

Bits of Advice from the Students of Previous Semesters  
GH811

- 1) Be careful with your dataset; if more than one person is programming, make sure there is a master code.
- 2) Final papers from the previous semester are great resources!
- 3) Be sure to go to the TA sessions starting early on in the course so you don't struggle to catch up later. Review the R modules before class to familiarize yourself with the material. Use online resources - Stack Overflow is a great website and will answer almost any R related question you have. Finally, don't be afraid to ask for help. Remember that everyone is on the same struggle bus.
- 4) I appreciated the opportunity to submit drafts for sections of the paper and receiving feedback from peers in the class. The feedback from the professor, TA, and other students is very useful. After receiving feedback and suggested feedback, we had time to go back, review, and edit our major deliverables. This helped polish our deliverables.
- 5) My overall advice to you would be to engage in periodic housekeeping; practice and attend R discussion sessions; and brush up on your data analysis skills. Good luck with completing GH 811

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This course will also teach you about what it's like to work for an extended period of time with people in a team. You will learn what assets and experiences they bring to research, as well as where they might lack in working with a group. Try to meet everyone where they are at and give people the benefit of the doubt, but also set high expectations for yourself and the group. You can and will create an awesome study that will look at a health outcome problem that affects you and your peers. As someone finishing it up now, I cannot begin to tell you how rewarding that is. My three main takeaways/nuggets of advice are:

- 1) Try to get your survey questionnaire approved early and start data collection early (like yesterday....)
- 2) Don't wait to the weekend the Problem Sets are due to start them (and go to TA Sessions for extra help)
- 3) Communicate with your group if something isn't working! You or your group members might not be on the same page with what is needed for each deliverable or the expectations your group has for the assignment. Make sure everyone knows what is going on, and help one another out

Good luck in GH 811 and enjoy the course. Professor Stokes does cold call (which can be terrifying, but really not that bad- its okay to say you aren't sure of something or to make an educated guess if you don't know an answer).