

# Statistics Practicum Sponsorship – Call for Proposals

The Elon Mathematics and Statistics Department seeks organizations that are interested in sponsoring a team project for the coming academic year. The sponsor will identify a challenging problem and provide data for the team to analyze. Below are guidelines for organizations that wish to submit a proposal.

## Basic Requirements

The proposal consists of three components: (1) a concise description of the problem to be addressed and the goal of the project; (2) the nature and size of the data set to be analyzed; and (3) the names of the key contacts within the sponsoring organizations.

Our students are equipped with a variety of skills and professional experience. Each team will have skills in statistics, data modeling, survey design, and computer programming, and with using industry-standard analytical software tools. Students also receive instruction in teamwork, project management, and communication skills.

## Team Assignments

Students are assigned to teams based on their skills, experience, and compatibility, to achieve the necessary balance given the needs of the project. The team leader is appointed by the Elon Mathematics and Statistics Department. Team members assign specific roles for themselves.

## Project Selection

Projects are selected based on the proposal's fit with the overall educational goals of our program. The main criteria used to select projects include:

- Educational value
- Likelihood of success
- Level of challenge and complexity
- Clarity of project goals
- Sponsor motivation and commitment
- Kind and amount of data

- Accessibility to specialized software tools, if needed

A viable proposal not selected in the current round can be placed in a queue for future assignment.

## **Confidentiality**

Confidentiality is a key element of how the projects are conducted. Only members of the team and faculty mentors have access to their sponsor's data. Sponsors do not under any circumstance provide personally identifiable information (PII), and will only share data in a manner that is consistent with their third-party data transfer governance rules.

Involved faculty and students will individually consent to a nondisclosure agreement upon the sponsors request.

## **Sponsor Commitments**

Each sponsor is required to:

- transfer the promised data on the specified timetable;
- assign a liaison, who will be the team's primary point of contact to resolve issues as they may arise;
- provide technical and strategic guidance, as needed, to ensure the project remains on the desired course;
- provide a time and audience for a final presentation. If this presentation is to be on-site, then the sponsor should plan on hosting this event.

The sponsor is not expected to provide ongoing project management and oversight—this is done by the department.

## **Sponsorship Fees**

There is no fee charged to sponsor a Practicum project. However, we recognize there is a cost involved to participate in terms of the time and effort required by individuals sponsoring a project.

## **Timetable**

- First round proposal review: April 1
- Second round proposal review: June 1
- Sponsors for current year selected by July 1
- All arrangements including nondisclosure agreements and data transfer completed by: September 1
- Final presentation to sponsor by December 1

## **Proposal Submission**

- Proposals are accepted throughout the year. There are two formal reviews with submission deadlines; however, the department is always interested in entering into discussions about a proposal. An organization may submit more than one proposal.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal please email Dr. Crista Arangala [ccoles@elon.edu](mailto:ccoles@elon.edu) to receive an application form.