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**To:** Students enrolled CORE-GP 1011 and CORE-GP 0111, Spring 2012  
**From:** The Wagner Statistics Faculty  
**Re:** Preparing for Stat 1

Welcome to Stat 1!

To start the semester smoothly, you must come prepared to the first class session. This memo provides information on several tasks that you should complete before attending your first lecture, including two reading assignments and ensuring you have access to the SPSS statistical package. Please review this document carefully.

First, consider a course waiver. Stat 1 is designed for students who have no – or very limited – prior course experience with statistical analysis. If you have already taken a statistics course that covers much of the same material, and you received a grade of B+ or better, you should waive this course! In addition, a waiver exam is available for those with prior coursework in statistics in which the grade received was below B+, and for those who are eligible to waive the course but who want to be sure they have mastered the material. To apply for a waiver, please follow the instructions on the waiver policy (<http://wagner.nyu.edu/current/registration/waivers.php>). For the rest of you, be assured that the course is designed for the novice.

Second, examine your math skills and refresh them as needed. Stat 1 is based on high school algebra. For many of you, it has been awhile! As needed, work on math now, to avoid being caught mid-semester, trying to learn new concepts without a firm math foundation. Wagner student services offers many resources for math self-assessment and skill reinforcement. The school also offers math review classes. Take advantage!

Now, on to the course: for administrative purposes, students who take Stat 1 must be enrolled in two courses – a lecture (CORE-GP 1011) and a lab (CORE-GP 0111). If you are not already enrolled in both a lecture section and a lab, you should do so now.

To familiarize yourself with the course, log on to your lecture section's Blackboard, which will become available as the start of classes draws nearer. You will find the course syllabus, homework assignments, PowerPoint slides, and many other course materials on the site. You can find the Blackboard at <http://classes.nyu.edu>. In order to log-in, you must enter your NYU NetID and password. If you have not activated your NYU account or have forgotten your password, you can activate or change your password at <http://start.nyu.edu>. If you cannot access Blackboard while your NetID is active and you are registered for the course, wait one day and try again. If you still cannot log on, send a message to [blackboard.request@nyu.edu](mailto:blackboard.request@nyu.edu) with the following information: P11.1011, your NetID, your name, and a message saying you cannot access Blackboard.

**Before your first lecture, you should:**

1. Get the two texts
  - J.F. Healey's *The Essentials of Statistics: A Tool for Social Research* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition); available at the NYU Bookstore and on Amazon.com (ISBN: 0495601438), and
  - J. Blustein's *SPSS: The Wagner Way*. You can either buy a bound hardcopy from the Wagner School front desk on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Puck Building for \$10.00 (only checks and money orders are accepted; no cash) or download a free .pdf file from your course Blackboard website.
2. Get the Stat 1 calculator
  - You will be required to use the Casio FX-300ES Natural Display Scientific Calculator; available at the NYU Computer Bookstore (@\$12.95; note that the Computer Bookstore is at 242 Greene Street). The calculator is also available on many online sites.
3. Read for the first lecture
  - Chapters 1 through 3 of the Healey text, and Chapter 1 of the Blustein text. Note that if you are unable to purchase *The Wagner Way* prior to your first lecture, you will find Chapter 1 posted as a downloadable .pdf on the course Blackboard, under "Course Documents."
4. Read the "Accessing SPSS Software" memo on the Lab Blackboard – note that there is one BB for all sections.
5. Log on to your lecture Blackboard (each section has its own BB) and follow any instructions that are posted there by your instructor.

**To your first lecture, you should bring:**

1. Course syllabus
2. PowerPoint slides for Class 1
3. Calculator
4. Any other material requested by your lecturer (for instance, student information forms).

We look forward to working with you this semester!