

October 1981

Skills required for effective statistical consulting

1. Knowledge of statistical concepts and theory.
2. Knowledge of and ability to use a broad array of statistical methodology.
3. Capability to use statistical literature when needed.
4. Computer background - programming and statistical packages.
5. Background knowledge of field of client(s).
6. Problem-solving skill.
7. Capacity to develop new methodology.
8. Communication skill - written and oral.
9. Capability to determine major objectives in a consulting situation.
10. Capacity to judge the ability and background of a client and direct consultation accordingly.
11. Capacity to win the confidence of the client.
12. Capacity to determine who is the ultimate consumer of the results from statistical consulting.
13. Capacity to work within the constraints of the real world.

The items are (approximately) ordered according to the emphasis placed on them by standard academic training. The given order does not necessarily reflect importance to successful consulting.