Reflection

This essay is a final reflection of the year-long course, precisely the spring 2022 semester, Statistics for Social Science. Before transferring to Longwood University, I attended a small private college and received a rigorous education in religion and business. I felt as if I were in a bubble during these two years. I thank Longwood University and the Criminal Justice Department for engaging and nurturing my personal, civic, and educational growth. Working with HeadStart, the community, and my Longwood team gave me a new perspective and gratitude. I will recommend Longwood's Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice Studies in the years to come.

Initially, this class was perceived as intimating. However, this course challenged me most positively. The end goals of this course were for the student to explain basic concepts in social statistics and to explain numerical data using descriptive statistics generated through tables and graphs. The construction of questionnaires, coding, sampling, constructing and maintaining data sets, probability, statistical distributions, hypothesis testing, and theoretical modeling was heavily emphasized during the semester. I computed and analyzed numerous inferential statistics using manual and computer calculation methods. I enhanced my knowledge of how to use SPSS and RStudio.Cloud and completed by-hand multi-step calculation simple calculator. Also, I was taught to recognize the distinctions between different statistical techniques and determine the correct procedure for research topics and data using probability theory. This class required me to create a well-organized guide, using my own words, that would provide step-by-step coding and hypothesis testing instructions for future use and sharing. Admittedly, I am impressed with the abilities I obtained in this course, and I am excited to see where the skills take me.

I learned many new skills in this course, including computing, analyzing, and interpreting T-tests, Chi-square, ANOVAs, and Pearson's correlation. I was surprised by how easy the coding was for SPSS. The SPSS system is user-friendly for beginners. I analyzed the same two variables throughout this course and was surprised by how smooth and seamless recoding and graphing were. More students should take this course to broaden their "toolbox".

With the increased emphasis and importance of technology and statistic analysis across the globe, this course showed me valuable statistical analysis skills conveniently. I got a valuable and practical education on research methods within the criminal justice department without having to take computer science classes or math outside of my major. This course was unlike any I had taken previously. I enjoyed the process of communicating through communicators and learning the terms, trips, and tricks in coding while relating my findings to the coursework in my other classes. I have participated in many mass surveys like cafeteria satisfaction, the doctors' offices' mental health evaluation, housing surveys, or Covid-19 survey. Now, I can understand the work put into these evaluations and appreciate the gravity of what had to take place for me to be surveyed and see results.