

# Working with SAS Macros at WPI

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## Purpose

SAS macros are programs written to allow SAS code to be run repeatedly with different inputs. This document is a tutorial on setting up a SAS macro library and running its macros. It assumes you have some macro code you want to store in a central location that SAS can automatically find when you want to run that code. It is not a guide to writing macros and does not provide guidance on how macros work. It is assumed you have SAS macro code for each macro in a separate text file with the .sas suffix and prefix the same as the calling name. So, for example, if you have a macro called with the command %corr, its code should be in the file corr.sas.

## SAS University Edition

**Step 1** If you do not already have one, you will want to create a folder to contain your macros. In SAS University Edition (hereinafter SAS UE), this must be in the myfolders folder (unless you want to define a new location in your virtual machine software). You can create a folder from within SAS UE by clicking on the leftmost icon under *Server Files and Folders*, selecting *Folder* and following instructions. Here, we assume the folder is named *mymacs*. In Windows, you can always go into the actual folder: on my machine it is C:\Program Files\SASUniversityEdition\myfolders so the resulting folder to store the macros will be C:\Program Files\SASUniversityEdition\myfolders\mymacs.

**Step 2** Upload your macro(s). From SAS UE under *My Folders* at the left side of the browser window, right click on the folder where you would like to upload the macro. Follow the instructions in the window that appears. Again, you can do this in Windows if you prefer.

**Step 3** Tell SAS UE where you put the macros. To do this, click on the button to the left of the ? button at the right top of the browser window and select *Edit Autoexec File*. Put the following code at the top of the file:

```
mautosource sasautos='/folders/myfolders/mymacs';
```

(note: this assumes you have put your macros in the folder *mymacs*. Unless you uninstall and reinstall SAS UE, you will have to do this step only this once.)

**Step 4** Run your macro.

## SAS Studio and SAS 9.4

### On Lab Computers

Create a folder in your R: drive (which has to exist if you are to run SAS) to contain the macros and populate it with the desired macros. I'll assume you have created the folder R:\SAS\mymacs. Then submit the following command at the start of your session or just prior to using the macro:

```
options mautosource sasautos='R:\SAS\mymacs';
```

You may also put this command in the autoexec.txt file found in R:\SAS.

### On Your Computer

If you have SAS installed on your computer, the above directions for lab computers will also work for running SAS Studio and SAS 9.4. An alternative is to access the macros from a local folder on your computer, such as the folder described above for SAS UE.