How to import text data using a SAS import program
Based on SAS v9.4

Data files for SAS users are provided as text files with SAS import and format statements in a separate program file. Distributing the data in this way allows access regardless of SAS version or computer operating system. Before running the program file, you will need to update the directory path information specific to your computer system.

In the sample program below, the portions that need to be edited appear in bold text. In addition, a description of the edits follows the example import program.

EXAMPLE SAS IMPORT PROGRAM STATEMENT

```
/* The following line should contain the complete path and name of
your raw data file */
FILENAME datafile 'C:\Users\You\Desktop\admindata.dat' ;

/* The following line should contain the directory in which you wish
your SAS file to be stored */
libname library 'C:\Users\You\Desktop' ;

/* The following line contains the name (without the extension) for
your SAS dataset */
%LET dataset = admindat ;
```

In the FILENAME statement, update the file path and file name (.dat file extension) information. The file path appears between the single quotes.

In the LIBNAME statement, update the file path appearing between the single quotes with the path to the directory in which you wish the SAS file to be stored.

This is not necessary, however, sometimes an abbreviated file name appears in the "%LET dataset =" command line. You can alter the file name appearing after the equals sign (=) with a file name of your choosing.

Please submit questions to NDACANsupport@cornell.edu.