

SAS (Statistical Analysis System) employs more than 10,000 people in 424 offices worldwide, and its solutions are used at more than 40,000 sites, including 96 of the top 100 companies on the FORTUNE Global 500. It is estimated that \$14.5 billion will be spent worldwide this year (2012) in the SAS marketplace.

SAS is a fourth-generation programming language consisting of a suite of software modules designed for business intelligence and data analysis.

SAS software continues to be the standard used in statistical analysis of clinical pharmaceutical trials for submission to the Food and Drug Administration. It is also widely used for statistical analysis in the insurance industry and the field of public health. SAS also provides data mining, and business performance management software (North Carolina will be using this to analyze teacher statistics in the coming years).

SAS Institute remains a wholly owned private company enabling the management, led by Dr. James Goodnight, to run the company without concern about the demands of shareholders. Approximately 25% of the revenue of the SAS Institute goes to research and development. In addition, SAS management is known for its unique methods to keep employees happy through providing such things as its childcare centers, "M&M Wednesdays", soda fountains and snacks in every breakroom, and a 58,000-square-foot recreation and fitness center. SAS Institute has frequently been included in lists of the best places to work in America. CBS' 60 Minutes did a segment on the employee benefits of SAS, entitled "The Royal Treatment." These benefits may also account for its low turnover: SAS lost 3.7% of its employees in 2000, which is about a tenth of competitors' rates. In 2010, Fortune magazine rated SAS the #1 place to work in the United States. In 2011 it "fell" to number 2.

In a recent college commencement speech Dr. Goodnight's discussion about education in America was very disconcerting. He feels that American students are not entering the fields of science, engineering, statistics, and math. These are the areas that would help America grow, invent and discover. He thinks American kids are too distracted by Twitter, Facebook, the Internet, Playstation, TV, iPhones, iPads and cell phones to do the hard work that is required in these fields. We have become a lazy distracted society. Our best colleges are educating foreign students who take that knowledge to their own countries. SAS to help remedy this has created its own high school academy located on the SAS campus. The SAS Institute sponsored school can boast that all graduates, since its inception, have attended college.

