

Quick tip. For WISUG, 05-14-2009.

To double-check the syntax in your SAS program, include this OPTIONS statement:
options obs=0 noreplace;

When you execute the SAS program, it will check for syntax errors. If the program has code to create a permanent dataset, the dataset will be created but with no observations. Or if a permanent dataset was created (with observations) in a previous run, the "noreplace" protects that dataset from being overwritten. The program will execute and flag errors within a few seconds.

Once you've checked for and corrected any syntax errors, you can just comment out this OPTIONS statement:
*options obs=0 noreplace;

and run the program.

Although it catches many errors, you still need to scan through the .log for any problems it misses – looking for “WARNING” statements as well as “ERROR” messages.

Jane A. Smith, I.R.P., U.W.-Madison