

# Instructions for Accessing Stata Through the Aggie Virtual Desktop (AVD) at Texas A&M University

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Aggie Virtual Desktop (AVD), formerly known as the Virtual Open Access Lab (VOAL), gives you access to essential software, tools and applications needed for coursework and projects. More information is available on this link (<https://it.tamu.edu/oal/aggie-virtual-desktop/index.php>).

## 1. Access the Aggie Virtual Desktop

On your **computer**:

- 1.1. Use an internet browser and go to this website (<https://aggievirtualdesktop.tamu.edu>).
- 1.2. If prompted, log in using your A&M NetID and password.
- 1.3. If prompted, enter a passcode from Duo.
- 1.4. Select VOAL (Virtual Open Access Lab) from the list of desktops.

You can click “OK” to grant permission for full screen or click “Cancel” to work on a regular screen.

You should now be remotely accessing a VOAL computer desktop. The first time you log in, it may take longer to load your user settings than in subsequent times.

## 2. Access Stata and organize applications/course material in VOAL (You have to follow these steps **just once**)

Everything in the VOAL desktop will be in Windows. Mac users who have not used Windows before may want to take some time to familiarize themselves with this operating system’s configuration.

On **VOAL**:

- 2.1. Find Stata from the Start menu. Pin Stata to the Start menu and to taskbar for easy access.
- 2.2. Use an internet browser to download the data from the course website:  
  
SOC1 420 – Advanced Methods of Social Research (Spring 2025)  
General Social Survey (GSS)  
(<http://www.ernestoamaral.com/docs/soci420-25spring/course.zip>)  
  
SOC1 600 – Introduction to Sociological Data Analysis (Fall 2024)  
American Community Survey (ACS)  
(<http://www.ernestoamaral.com/docs/soci600-24fall/course.zip>)
- 2.3. Go to the File Explorer application and click once on the course.zip file.
- 2.4. Click on “Extract all” at the top.
- 2.5. Under the field “Files will be extracted to this folder:” be sure to inform only “H:\” (**not** “H:\course”).
- 2.6. Click on “Extract.”

Open the “course” folder and click on the “data” folder. You can open the databases by double clicking on any of the DTA files.