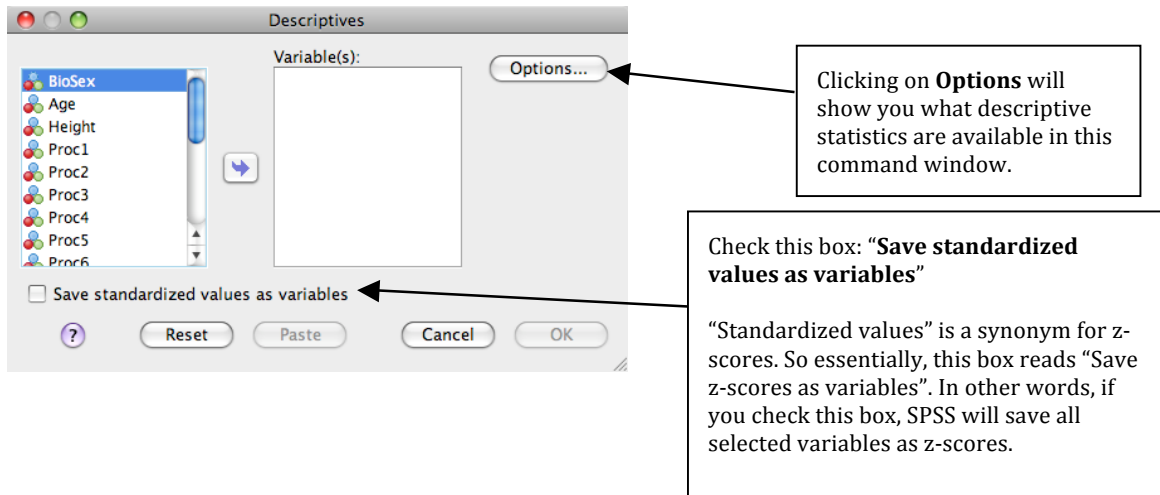Psyc 250 – Statistics & Experimental Design

Z-scores in SPSS

In class, we covered how to calculate z-scores by hand. SPSS can also calculate z-scores (and it will do so much faster!). To do so, begin with a procedure that you are already familiar with – running descriptives (note: the z-score command is only available in "Descriptives", not "Frequencies").

 [Analyze] → [Descriptive Statistics] → [Descriptives]

The following window will open:

Clicking on **Options** will show you what descriptive statistics are available in this command window.

Check this box: "**Save standardized values as variables**"

"Standardized values" is a synonym for z-scores. So essentially, this box reads "Save z-scores as variables". In other words, if you check this box, SPSS will save all selected variables as z-scores.

Note: You won't see much in the Output window unless you select statistics in the "Options" window. However, if you look in your SPSS Variable View, you will notice newly created variables that begin with "Z" --- the 'Z' denotes that the variable is a z-score transformation of the original variable.