
NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

User's Manual

June 2002

National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988

Base-Year to Fourth Follow-up Data File User's Manual



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NCES 2002-323

(Appendixes G and H added 2/27/03)

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**Appendix G:
Descriptors for Major/Field of Study,
Occupation and Industry Codes
NELS:88/2000**

Major/Field of Study Descriptors and Codes (F4EMJ series)

Code	Major/Field of Study	Inclusions
10	Agriculture	Agribusiness, Crop Production, Landscaping, Agricultural Economics
20	Agricultural Science	Animal/Plant/Food/Range/Soil/Crop/ Horticultural Science
30	Natural Resources	Conservation, Fisheries, Wild-life Management
31	Forestry	Forest Engineering/Production/Harvesting/ Management, Logging, Wood Science
40	Architecture	Landscape Architecture
50	American Civilization	American Civilization/Studies
51	Area Studies	Asian, European, Latin American, Middle Eastern, Pacific, Scandinavian, Canadian, Other Areas
52	African-American Studies	Black Studies
53	Ethnic Studies NOT Black/Area Studies	Native American, Hispanic, Islamic, Jewish, Hawaiian, Other Cultural Studies
60	Accounting	Tax, Cost, Audit
61	Business: Finance	Banking, Financial Management, Portfolio/Securities Management
62	Business: Business/Mgmt Systems	Decision Science, MIS, Marketing Research EXCLUDES Business Statistics
63	Business: Management/Business Administration	Hotel/Insurance/Intl/Personnel/Risk Management, Marketing, Real Estate, General Business
70	Business: Secretarial	Clerical, General Office, Receptionist, Typing, Word Processing, Administrative Asst, Data Entry
71	Business: Business Support	Bookkeeping, Business Communications, Office Management
80	Business: Marketing/Distribution	Fashion Modeling, Food/Apparel/Insurance Marketing, Purchasing, Sales, Travel Services Marketing
90	Journalism	Broadcast/Print Journalism
91	Communications	Advertising, Mass Media, Public Relations
100	Communication Technology	Educational Media Tech, Photographic/Radio/ TV/Motion Picture Tech
110	Computer Programming	
111	Data Processing Technology	
112	Computer and Information Sciences	Information Systems

Appendix G: Descriptors for Major-Field of Study, Occupation and Industry Codes

Code	Major/Field of Study	Inclusions
120	Consumer Services: Cosmetology	Hair Styling, Barber, Electrolysis, Cosmetic Services
121	Consumer Services: Mortuary	Funeral, Mortuary Science
130	Education: Early Childhood	
131	Education: Elementary	
132	Education: Secondary	Secondary/Junior High Ed
133	Education: Special	Mentally Handicapped, Mental Retardation, Gifted and Talented, Learning Disability
134	Education: Physical Education	Health Ed. Certification
135	Education: Other	Admin/Adult/Bilingual/Continuing/Counseling/Research/School Psychology
140	Engineering: Electrical	Electrical/Electronic/Communication EXCLUDES Computer Engineering/Science
141	Engineering: Chemical	Petroleum Engineering
142	Engineering: Civil	Ocean & Coastal Engineering
143	Engineering: Mechanical	
144	Engineering: All Other	Aerospace/Bio/Agri/Enviro/Industrial/Computer/Sy stems (EXCLUDES Electri/Chemical/ Civil/Mechanical)
150	Engineering Technology	Science/Drafting/Design/Manufacturing Technology
160	Spanish	
161	Foreign Langs: Non-European	Chinese, Japanese, Sanskrit, Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, Aramaic
162	Foreign Langs: European/General: NOT Spanish	Linguistics, German, Greek, Swedish, Danish, Italian, French, Portuguese, Latin, Russian, Slavic Langs.
170	Health, Allied: Dental/Medical Technician	Dental/Med Assisting/Services, Paramedic, EMT, Radiologic/Respiratory/Surgical/EEG/ EKG Tech
171	Health, Allied: Therapy and Mental Health	Phys/Occup/Rec Therapy

Code	Major/Field of Study	Inclusions
172	Health/Phys Ed/Recreation (HPER): non-school teacher	NOT school-teacher related
173	Nursing: Nurse Assisting	Practical Nursing, LP.N
174	Health, Allied: General & Other	Health Services, Community Health, Athletic Training, Exercise Physiology
175	Nursing: Nursing, Post-R.N.	Maternal/Pediatric/Surgical/Psychiat/Public/Commun Health Nursing
180	Health: Audiology	Speech Pathology
181	Health: Clinical Health Science	Med. Laboratory
182	Health: Dentistry	D.D.S., D.M.D., and related graduate/ residency programs
183	Health: Medicine	M.D., surgeon, and related residency programs
184	Health: Veterinary Medicine	includes related residency programs
185	Nursing: Registered Nurse	EXCLUDES Post-R.N.,LP.N. EXCLUDES Nursing Assistant/Aide
186	Health: Health/Hospital Admin.	Med. Office Mgmt, Med. Records Admin Technology
187	Health: Public Health	Epidemiology, Public Health Management
188	Health: Preparatory Programs	pre-med, pre-dentist, pre-vet, pre-pharmacy
190	Health: Dietetics	Food Science, Nutrition
191	Textiles	Textile Science
192	Home Economics: All Other	Clothing,Fashion Design EXCLUDES Textiles/Food Science/Nutrition
193	Health: Chiropractic	D.C., D.C.M. degree programs and related graduate/residency programs
194	Health: Pharmacy	B.Pharm., Pharm.D. degree programs only
195	Health: Podiatry	D.P.M., D.P.,Pod.D. degree programs only
196	Health: Optometry	O.D. degree programs only EXCLUDES Opthamology

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Code	Major/Field of Study	Inclusions
197	Health: Osteopathic Medicine	D.O. degree programs and related graduate/ residency programs
200	Vocational Home Econ.: Child Care/Guidance	Child Development, Child Care Management
201	Vocational Home Econ.: Other	Floral Design, Food Product/Management, Catering, Meatcutter, Tailor EXCLUDES Child Care
220	Law: Para-legal (includes Pre-Law)	Legal Assisting
221	Law	
230	Letters: American/English Literature	
231	Letters: Creative/Technical Writing	
232	Letters: All Other	EXCLUDES American/English Literature EXCLUDES Creative/Technical Writing
240	Liberal Studies	Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies
250	Library/Archival Science	Museology
260	Biol Sci: Zoology	
261	Biol Sci: Botany	
262	Biol Sci: Biochemistry	
264	Biol Sci: Biophysics	
263	Biol Sci: All Other	Biology, Ecology, Microbiology, Physiology EXCLUDES Biochem/Biophy/Botany/ Zoology/Biometrics
270	Mathematics: Statistics	Biometrics, Econometrics, Business Statistics, Psychometrics, Social Statistics
271	Mathematics: NOT Statistics	Applied Mathematics, Operations Research
280	Military Sciences	Military Technology
300	Women's Studies	
301	Interdisciplinary: Environmental Studies	Environmental Science
302	Interdisciplinary: Biopsychology	Physiological Psychology, Psychobiology

Code	Major/Field of Study	Inclusions
303	Interdisciplinary: Integrated/General Science	Natural Science, Applied Science
304	Interdisciplinary: All other	General Lab/Humanities NOT General Science, Environ/Womens Studies, Biopsychology
310	Leisure Studies	Recreation, Sports, Parks/Recreation Management
320	Basic/Personal Skills	Health and Recreational Activities, First Aid, Scuba, Karate
380	Philosophy	
381	Religious Studies	
390	Clinical Pastoral Care	Theology, Bible Studies, Evangelism
400	Physical Sciences: Chemistry	
401	Physical Sciences: Earth Science	Geology, Oceanography, Geophysics, Paleontology, Metallurgy, Petrology
402	Physical Sciences: Physics	
403	Physical Sciences: NOT Chem/Physics/Earth Sci	Planetary/Atmospheric Science, Astronomy, Meteorology, Astrophysics
420	Psychology	EXCLUDES Psychometrics
430	Protective Services	Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement
440	Social Work	
441	Public Administration: NOT Social Work	Community Services, Social Welfare, Public Policy Studies
450	Anthropology/Archaeology	
451	Economics	EXCLUDES Econometrics
452	Geography	
453	History	
454	Sociology	Criminology, Demography, General Social Sci. EXCLUDES Social Statistics
455	Political Science	
456	International Relations	
457	City Planning	Urban Studies
460	Industrial Arts: Construction	
470	Mechanics: Transportation	Auto/Aircraft Engine/Vehicle/Body/ Engine Repair

Appendix G: Descriptors for Major-Field of Study, Occupation and Industry Codes

Code	Major/Field of Study	Inclusions
471	Industrial Arts: Electronics	Electronic/Electrical Mechanics/Repair, Computer Electronics Repair
472	Mechanics: All Other	Heating/Air/Industrial Equipment Repair EXCLUDES Transportation/Electronics
480	Arts: Commercial Art	Graphic/Printing Communications, Commercial Photography
481	Precision Production	Lithography, Precision Metal Work, Drafting, Welding, Upholstery
490	Transportation: Air	
491	Transportation: NOT Air	
500	Arts: Design	Graphic/Illustration/Industrial/Interior/Product Design
501	Arts: Speech/Drama	Acting, Directing, Theatre
502	Arts: Film Arts	Cinematography
503	Arts:Music	
504	Arts: Visual/Performing/Fine Art History, Fine Arts, Dance, Performing Arts, Painting, Sculpture	
505	Arts: Crafts, Folk Art, Artisanry, Ceramics, Pottery, Weaving, Textiles, Glass, Jewelry, Metal	
900	No Major	No major, planning to transfer courses, major to be determined later

Occupation Descriptors and Codes (F4BXOCCD)

Code	Occupation	Inclusions
1	Secretaries, Specialized Secretaries, Receptionists	Typist, timekeeper, stenographer
2	Cashiers, Tellers, Sales Clerks	Bank teller, gas station attendant
3	Clerks - Data Entry	Data entry clerks, data clerks, data processing clerks, statistical clerks
4	Clerical Other	Dispatchers, ticketing & travel agents, library assistants, hotel front desk, records administrators, warehouse/postal/shipping/ receiving/stock/file clerks, mail carrier/handlers, enumerator, office machine operator
5	Farmers, Foresters, Farm Laborers	Fish Farmer, Fisherman, Forester, Horticulture, Oysterman, Trapper
6	Personal Services	Waiters, bartenders, hairdressers, flight attendants, babysitters, child/day care worker, maids, housekeepers, pet groomers, concierge, hostess, misc. attendants, etc.
7	Cooks, Chefs, Bakers, Cake Decorators	
8	Laborers (other than farm)	Grounds keeper, helper, maintenance, dishwasher, cook's helper, material handler, courier, loader, custodian, bagger, bus boy, gardener, stevedore, garbage collector, messenger, meter reader, stock handler
9	Mechanics, Repairers, Service Technicians	
10	Craftsmen	Plumbers, electricians, carpenters, telephone installers, millwrights, masons, foremen, inspectors, machinists, roofers, tool & die makers, upholsterers, jeweler, wallpaper hanger, etc.
11	Skilled Operatives	Assemblers, drillers, meat cutters and wrappers, machinists, precision machine operators, polishers, rodmen, sawyers, seamstress, welders, etc. THESE PEOPLE PRIMARILY OPERATE MACHINES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT
12	Transport Operatives (other than pilots)	Boatmen, conductors, chauffeurs, cranemen, deliverymen, fork lift, motormen, parking attendants, railroad breakmen, truck and bus drivers, taxi drivers, etc.
13	Protective Services, Criminal Justice Administration	Police, firemen, corrections/parole officers, court administrators, bailiffs/bondsmen, etc.
14	Military	Career officer, enlisted soldier, weapons specialist, other military occupation not codable elsewhere THIS CATEGORY IS ONLY FOR OCCUPATIONS THAT ARE EXCLUSIVELY MILITARY AND THAT DO NOT APPEAR ELSEWHERE.

Appendix G: Descriptors for Major-Field of Study, Occupation and Industry Codes

Code	Occupation	Inclusions
15	Business/Financial Support Services	Bookkeepers, credit examiners, insurance adjustors, loan officers, payroll, broker's assistant, bond clerks, billing, recruiting, etc.
16	Financial Services Professionals	Accountants, bank officers, controller, insurance brokers/agents, investment bankers, stock brokers, treasurers, underwriters, financial managers/analysts/consultants, etc. MINIMUM OF BACHELOR'S DEGREE (some exceptions)
17	Sales/Purchasing	Buyers, salesmen, sales managers, advertising, marketing, promotion, real estate
18	Customer Service	NOT CLERICAL, NOT SALES NOT SERVICE OCCUPATIONS
19	Legal Professionals	Lawyers, judges REQUIRES DEGREE
20	Legal Support	Para-legals, legal assistants (LEGAL SECRETARIES ONLY IF ALSO LEGAL ASSISTANTS)
21	Medical Practice Professionals	Physicians, dentists, veterinarians, etc. REQUIRES DEGREE
22	Medical Licensed Professionals	RNs, pharmacists, dental hygienists, XRAY/ MRI/etc. technologists, physical and other therapists, speech pathologists, opticians, etc. MINIMUM OF ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE (bachelor's if psych therapist, pharmacist, or public health)
23	Medical Services	LPNs, medical/dental assistants, home health aides, hospital admissions, medical records technologists, paramedics, opticians, veterinarian assistants
24	Educators: K-12 Teachers	K-12 school teachers MINIMUM OF BACHELOR'S DEGREE
25	Educators: Instructors Other Than K-12	Trainers/instructors e.g., teachers' aides, assistant teachers, college professors and instructors, tutors, school administrators, school counselors, corporate trainers, flight instructors, librarians and library associates, nursery and pre-school teachers NOT Sports/Fitness/Performing Arts instructors
26	Human Services Professionals	Social workers, clergy, counselors, occupational therapists/advisors. Requires degree in some cases (e.g. social worker, clergy)
27	Engineers, Architects, Software/System Engineers	MINIMUM OF BACHELOR'S DEGREE
28	Scientist, Statistician Professionals	(other than lab technicians and research assistants) MINIMUM OF BACHELOR'S DEGREE
29	Research Assistants/Lab Technicians	Engineering assistants, draftsmen, surveyors (NOT medical/health or computer assistants)
30	Technical/Professional Workers, Other	Archivists, air traffic controllers, city planners, customs inspectors, curators, environmental technicians, navigators, pilots, sound engineers, misc. management advisors/specialists

Code	Occupation	Inclusions
31	Computer Systems/Related Professional/ Tech	Systems analysts, software support specialists, MIS managers, network administrators, data editors, hardware technical support, etc. (other than computer programmers or operators)
32	Computer Programmers	
33	Computer & Computer Equipment Operators	
34	Editors, Writers, Reporters, Public Relations/Communication Specialists	
35	Performers/Artists	Artists, commercial artists, athletes, entertainers, dancers, musicians, actors, directors, etc.
36	Managers: Executive	President, vice president, executive director, managing director
37	Managers: Midlevel	Retail, service, manufacturing, construction, bank officer, store manager, restaurant managers, etc.
38	Managers: Supervisory, Office, and Other Admin	Office managers, department managers, assistant managers, management trainees, coordinators, project managers
39	Health/Recreation Services	Health club advisors, recreation assistants, non-school coaches, sports/fitness instructors/trainers
	Uncodable, Other employed not codable	Interviewers, politicians
41	Unemployed - Homemakers	
42	Unemployed - Other	EXCLUDES HOMEMAKERS

Industry Descriptors and Codes (F4BXINCD)

Codes	Industry	Inclusions
1	Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries	Farming, Agricultural Products, Horticultural Services— includes plant nurseries, tree/fish farms Does NOT include landscaping/lawn care services, garden centers, or veterinary medicine
2	Mining, Petroleum, Drilling	Coal mining, crude petroleum, natural gas extraction, metal/non-metal mining, quarrying
3	Construction and Allied	General/general building/trade contractors, pre-fabricated house construction, HVAC, plumbing, heating, roofers, painters, electricians, and any other construction industry
4	Manufacturing: Durable Goods	Manufacture of products lasting 5 years or longer under normal use e.g., wood/stone/clay/glass/metal products, all machines/electrical devices, autos/ aircraft/ships, photographic/scientific/other equipment & tools, furniture, cement, plaster, pottery, radios, TVs, lumber
5	Manufacturing: Non-durable Goods	Consumable, normally lasts less than 5 years fabric/ yarn/carpet, apparel/shoes, paper/chemical/petroleum/ rubber/leather products, tobacco, soaps, paints, insecticides, plastics, synthetics, canned/processed foods/ beverages
6	Utilities	Telephone (all types), telegraph, electric, water, sewer, waste collection, cable, postal (cable TV service only—all other cable TV in Communications)
7	Wholesale Distribution and Recycling	Wholesalers, distributors, collection of durable and non-durable products—includes beer/wine distributors, warehouse/distribution facilities
8	Retail Trade—Sales and Rental	Store, dealer, sales, mail order, vending machines, retail bakeries/florists, video rental/sales, auto rental, auto/computer/electronics repair Does NOT include hospitality (hotels, restaurants, caterers, etc.)
9	Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	Banks, credit agencies, insurance companies, security/ commodity/brokerage firms, investment/mutual fund companies, real estate agencies
10	Business Services	Building maintenance/services, couriers, employment/ temporary agencies, business management/consulting, business leasing, landscaping service, lawn care service
11	Personal Services	Laundry, barber, maid service, beauty shops, dressmaking, shoe/garment repair, child/day care
12	Entertainment and Recreation Services	Theaters, coliseums, amusement parks, bowling, tourist services, motion pictures, golf courses, country clubs, marinas, health clubs, park and recreation centers, sports facilities, video/game parlors, museums, galleries, zoos

Codes	Industry	Inclusions
13	Professional and Related Services	Law, engineering/architectural/accounting/advertising services, research/development firms, labs, churches/religious/welfare/social service agencies Does NOT include education, health, public safety, public administration
14	Public Administration	Civilian government—executive, legislative, justice (includes federal/state/local government) EXCEPT those otherwise classified
15	Public Safety	Law enforcement, fire, penal institutions/corrections facilities, detective agencies, security guards
16	Health Care	Hospitals, nursing homes, medical offices, medical supplies, pharmacies, dental clinics, veterinary clinics, therapy clinics/facilities, weight loss facilities
17	Communications	Radio/TV broadcasting, motion pictures, newspapers, magazines, book publishing, telecommunications
18	Transportation	Rail/bus/air/shipping lines, cabs, trucking, transportation services, public transportation, delivery services (UPS, FedEx, Food Taxi), moving companies
19	Hospitality	Hotel/motel, restaurants, fast food, bar/lounge, catering
20	Education	Public/private schools, colleges, universities, libraries, vocational/technical/other training facilities
21	Military/Department of Defense	Active duty and reserves: all branches—Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, civilian Dept. of Defense Employees, Department of Defense contractors

Appendix H: NELS:88/2000 Data Collection Dates, Completion Status and Sample Sizes

NELS:88/2000 Data Collection Dates, Completion Status and Sample Sizes

Data collection for the fourth follow-up began on Jan 19, 2000 and went to July 27, 2000, when data collection paused for two days and the nonresponse subsample of 386 was drawn. Data collection resumed for the subsample and continued until August 16. The following table breaks out the interview completions, by month.

Month	Full	Part*	Total	% Comp
Jan	244	0	244	2.0
Feb	3,421	0	3,421	28.2
Mar	3,388	1	3,389	27.9
Apr	2,069	4	2,073	17.1
May	1,303	11	1,314	10.8
Jun	982	5	987	8.1
Jul	485	8	493	4.1
Aug	163	15	178	1.5
Sep	45	0	45	0.4
Total	12,100	44	12,144	100

* The partial interviews were without final date stamps, this date represents the last contact date.