



HSTS Database Training Seminar Announcement

Using the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) High School Transcript Study (HSTS) **2015 Database for Research and Policy Discussion**

Monday, June 1, 2015 through Wednesday, June 3, 2015
Washington, DC

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), in the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences (IES), will sponsor 3-day advanced studies seminar on the use of the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) High School Transcript Study (HSTS) database for education research and policy analysis.

This seminar is aimed at faculty and advanced graduate students from colleges and universities. Education researchers and policy analysts with strong statistical skills from state and local education agencies and professional associations are also welcome.

OVERVIEW



The NAEP High School Transcript Study collects transcripts from representative samples of America's public and private high school graduates. The most recent data available is from the 2009 study, conducted in conjunction with grade 12 NAEP in mathematics and science. Previous studies were conducted in 2005, 2000, 1998, 1994, and 1990. Training on the HSTS 2009 will be relevant for researchers and analysts who plan to analyze multiple years of data. The HSTS databases include information on students' coursetaking, credits earned, grade point average, performance on the NAEP assessment, and student and school background characteristics.

For more information about the NAEP HSTS, please review the materials posted on the survey website (<http://www.nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/hsts/>).

PURPOSE AND EXPECTED OUTCOME

The goal of this seminar is to provide education researchers and policy analysts with an opportunity for hands-on experience exploring and analyzing this rich database of secondary student transcript information. This seminar has the specific aim of stimulating interest in using the NAEP HSTS data to address current and future education research question. The seminar will include the following topics and activities:

- an overview of HSTS design and database contents;
- methodological and technical issues that must be taken into account when analyzing NAEP and HSTS data;
- example analyses and practice with NAEP-specific software; and
- hands-on experience in conducting individualized statistical analysis projects using NAEP data.

At the conclusion of the seminar, each participant will make a brief presentation that summarizes analyses that the participant conducted during the seminar. This presentation should include a clear specification of study issues, rationale for the study, study approach (specifications of population, variables, design weights used, etc.), and preliminary analysis results. Participants should submit copies of any formal papers or articles that result from the studies pursued during the seminar.

QUALIFICATIONS

Participants attending this seminar should have a solid understanding of basic and some advanced statistics, such as procedures required for analyzing nested survey data (i.e., data collected from multi-stage probability samples as opposed to simple random samples), have some familiarity with measurement theory, and be experienced in the use of personal computers. They also should be proficient in the use of the SPSS statistical software package. Participants will be expected to know how to perform basic SPSS procedures, including recoding data and running descriptive analyses (e.g., frequency distributions, cross-tabulations, means). Applicants will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- consistency of the proposed research agenda with the data available in NAEP HSTS. Applicants are encouraged to explore the NAEP HSTS database on-line prior to proposing a research agenda (<http://www.nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/hstsdata/>);
- experience in educational research and potential ability to benefit from participation in the seminar; and
- knowledge and skills in statistical analyses and the use of statistical computer packages. (Please see the attached application form for specific questions pertaining to your level of experience.)

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

There is no fee to attend this seminar. NCES will provide training materials as well as computers for the hands-on practice. NCES will also pay for transportation, hotel accommodations, and a fixed per diem for meals and incidental expenses during the training seminar.

LOCATION

The seminar will be held in Washington, DC on **Monday, June 1, 2015 through Wednesday, June 3, 2015** at a location to be announced. Accepted applicants will be sent information about both the training and lodging arrangements.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

If you are interested in attending the seminar, please complete and return the following documents:

1. The application form.
2. A copy of your resume, highlighting your experience with statistical analysis.
3. A 1- to 2-page statement, clearly describing your research study and how the study can be furthered by your participation in the seminar.
4. A letter of recommendation from your faculty advisor if you are a graduate student.

Your proposed research study should include specifications of issues, rationale, and study approach. Space is limited for the seminar. Only complete applications will be considered, and only two applicants from the same organization or institution can be accepted.

Applications should be received no later than **May 8, 2015**. Applications will be reviewed and selected candidates will be informed by **May 15, 2015**. Selected candidates will receive the seminar agenda and information about travel arrangements.

Applications emailed or scanned and faxed to:

Betsy Holran

CDS2

bholran@cds2.com

Fax: (202) 296-2539

Contact Betsy through email at bholran@cds2.com or by telephone at (202) 296-2528 if you have any questions regarding this seminar.

NOTE: Applicants are allowed to attend no more than two NCES sponsored training seminars within a 6-year period.



APPLICATION
HSTS Database Training Seminar
 National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)
 U.S. Department of Education

June 1 - 3, 2015
 Washington, DC

Dr. Mr. Ms.

NAME:

(please type or print clearly)

AFFILIATION:

TITLE/POSITION:

MAILING ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP CODE:

TELEPHONE:

FAX:

E-MAIL:

Computer Statistical Software Experience:

All participants must have at least 2 years of SPSS experience.

Software	Level of experience			
	Extensive (= proficient in aggregating, merging, recoding, weighting, and analysis)	Some (= familiar with recoding and many analysis procedures)	Very little (= simple descriptive procedures and recoding)	None
SPSS				
WesVar				
Other (specify)				

Please answer the following:

1. Do you have experience merging files in SPSS? yes no
2. Do you have experience recoding variable values in SPSS? yes no
3. Have you used weights in your analysis using SPSS? yes no
4. Have you run statistical analyses using SPSS? yes no

Area of Research Interest:

Please attach a clearly written description of your research interest and how that can be furthered through the use of NCES data (1–2 typewritten pages). Be as specific as possible. If you are a graduate student a letter of recommendation from your faculty advisor must be included with your application

Complete applications should be submitted no later than May 8, 2015. Space is limited for this seminar. Applications will be reviewed and selected candidates will be notified by May 15, 2015.

Applications should be returned to:

Betsy Holran
 CDS2
 1900 L Street, N.W., Suite 505
 Washington, DC 20036
 Tel : (202)296-2528 ; Fax: (202)296-2539
 E-Mail: bholran@cds2.com