



HSLs:09 Database Training Seminar Announcement

Using the new High School Longitudinal Study of 2009
For Research and Policy Analysis

Tuesday, July 19, through Thursday, July 21, 2011
Washington, DC

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, will sponsor one 2½ day advanced studies seminar on the use of longitudinal data for research and policy analysis on July 19-21, 2011. This new dataset captures the coursework, experiences, activities, plans, motivations, and performance in algebra of a nationally representative sample of ninth graders, as well as the influences of schools, teachers, friends, and family in students' decision-making about courses, college, and careers, especially in science, technology, engineering, and math.

This seminar is open to researchers, education practitioners, and policy analysts from state and local education agencies and professional associations, as well as advanced graduate students and faculty members from colleges and universities nationwide.

OVERVIEW



The High School Longitudinal Study of 2009 (HSLs:09). Beginning with a 9th grade cohort in the fall of 2009, HSLs:09 offers data about the critical transition from 8th grade to high school and will provide longitudinal data as this cohort matures and transitions into postsecondary experiences with a special focus on courses, majors, and careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. In the base year of HSLs:09, data were collected from students, their parents, their math and science teachers, their school counselors, and their school administrators. Students completed a 35-minute survey about their coursework, academic and social experiences, plans for the future, and motivations as well as a 40-minute assessment in algebra skills and concepts, which they will take again in the spring of 11th grade to measure algebra learning in high school.

The following are examples of research issues that can be addressed with HSLs:09 data:

- Students' knowledge of algebra (academic growth over high school will be available with the first follow-up data to be collected in 2012 and released in 2013);
- The transitions from middle school to high school and eventually from high school to postsecondary education or the workplace;
- Students' and parents' plans for postsecondary education, including expected majors, estimated costs, and current savings;
- School experiences, academic experiences out of school, and social experiences of 9th graders;
- Students' interests and motivation in school generally and in math and science specifically;
- Course placement process, guidance on secondary and postsecondary choices, resources for struggling and excelling students, and availability of parental and school staff support.

PURPOSE AND EXPECTED OUTCOME

The overall goal of this seminar is to provide researchers with opportunities to use the new HSL:09 data in substantive research. The seminar will include both lecture and hands-on instruction. Specifically, the seminar will include the following topics and activities:

- An overview of HSL:09 sample design, data components, and coverage;
- Methodological and technological issues relevant to data use;
- Instruction and practice on how to analyze longitudinal data; and
- Hands-on experience in analyzing research issues posed by the participants.

At the conclusion of the seminar, participants will be asked to make a 4-minute presentation that summarizes analyses that the participant conducted during the seminar. This presentation will include a clear specification of study issues, rationale for the study, study approach (specifications of population, variables, design weights used, etc.), and preliminary analyses (using HSL:09).

QUALIFICATIONS

Participants attending the seminar should have a solid understanding of statistical methods and be proficient in the use of SPSS or Stata or SAS statistical software packages. Participants will be expected to know how to perform basic SPSS or Stata or SAS procedures, including recoding data and running descriptive analyses (e.g., frequency distributions, cross-tabulations, means). Applicants will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Significance of the proposed research and potential benefit from participation in the seminar;
- Consistency of the proposed research agenda with the data available in HSL:09;
- Experience in educational research; 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 the seminar. NCES will provide training materials as well as computers for hands-on practice. For out-of-town participants, NCES will also pay for transportation, hotel accommodations, and a fixed per diem for meals and incidental expenses during the training seminar.

LOCATION

This seminar will be held in Washington, DC, on Tuesday, July 19, 2011 through Thursday, July 21, 2011. Accepted applicants will be sent information about both the meeting and lodging arrangements (for out-of-town participants).

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.

3. A 2- to 3-page statement clearly describing your research interests, how you plan to use HSLS:09 data in your research, and how you would benefit from the seminar.
4. A letter of recommendation from your faculty advisor if you are a graduate student.

Your statement should identify the substantive issues and research questions that you intend to study using HSLS:09 data. It should clearly indicate why these issues and questions are important and why you believe HSLS:09 is an appropriate data source. You should also indicate what you hope to learn during the seminar that will assist you in your research. Only complete applications will be considered, and only a maximum of two applicants from the same organization or institution can be accepted.

All applications should be received no later than **June 6, 2011**. Applications will be reviewed and selected candidates will be informed by **June 13, 2011**. Selected candidates will receive the seminar agenda and information about travel arrangements.

Applications should be returned to: Gordana Vukovic
Synergy Enterprises, Inc.
8757 Georgia Avenue, Suite 1440
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Email: gvukovic@seiservices.com

Contact Gordana Vukovic through e-mail at gvukovic@seiservices.com 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
HSLs:09 Database Training Seminar
National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)
U.S. Department of Education
July 19-21, 2011
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 one year of SPSS or SAS experience.

	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
Software				
SPSS (Windows)				
SAS (Windows)				
Stata				
WesVar or SUDAAN				
Other (specify)				

Please answer the following:

1. Do you have experience merging files in SPSS, SAS, or Stata? yes no
2. Do you have experience recoding variable values in SPSS, SAS, or Stata? yes no
3. Have you used weights in your analysis using SPSS, SAS, or Stata? yes no
4. Have you run statistical analyses using WesVar, SUDAAN, or AM? 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 HSLs:09 data (2–3 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 **June 6, 2011**. Space is limited for this seminar. Applications will be reviewed and selected candidates will be notified by **June 13, 2011**.

Applications should be returned to:

Gordana Vukovic
 Synergy Enterprises, Inc.
 8757 Georgia Avenue, Suite 1440
 Silver Spring, MD 20910
 Tel: (240) 485-1700
 E-mail: gvukovic@seiservices.com