HSTS Database Training Seminar Announcement

USE OF THE NAEP HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT STUDY (HSTS) 2005 DATA

Monday, August 4, 2008, through Wednesday, August 6, 2008
Washington, DC

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), in the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences (IES), will sponsor a 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 study was conducted in 2005, in conjunction with grade 12 NAEP assessments in mathematics and science. The database includes information on students' coursetaking, course 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, participants shall submit a summary of a preliminary study design that uses NAEP HSTS data, including a clear specification of study issues, rationale for the study, study approach (specifications of population, variables, etc.), and preliminary analysis results if available. When the study is finished, a copy of the paper or report should be sent to NCES.

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/hstsnde/);
- 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, August 4, 2008, through Wednesday, August 6, 2008, at the AED Conference Center, 1825 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20009. 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 **June 18, 2008**. Applications will be reviewed and selected candidates will be informed by **June 25, 2008**. Selected candidates will receive the seminar agenda and information about travel arrangements.

Applications should be returned to: Jennifer Laird
MPR, Inc.
2150 Shattuck Ave, Suite 800
Berkeley, CA 94704

Contact Jennifer Laird through e-mail at jlaird@mprinc.com, by telephone at (510) 849-4942, or by fax at (510) 849-0794, 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
August 4-August 6, 2008
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 (Windows)				
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

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