

A. Appendix D Letters and Contacting Materials

CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR LETTER**NPSAS
Endorsed by**

American Association of
Collegiate Registrars and
Admissions Officers

American Association of
Community Colleges

American Association of State
Colleges and Universities

American Council on Education

Association for Institutional
Research

Association of American Colleges
and Universities

Association of Catholic Colleges
and Universities

Association of Schools of Allied
Health Professions

Career College Association

The Carnegie Foundation for the
Advancement of Teaching

The College Board

Council of Graduate Schools

The Council of Independent
Colleges

Hispanic Association of Colleges
and Universities

Midwestern Higher Education
Compact

National Accrediting Commission
of Cosmetology Arts and
Sciences

National Association of College
and University Business Officers

National Association for Equal
Opportunity in Higher Education

National Association of
Independent Colleges and
Universities

National Association of State
Universities and
Land-Grant Colleges

National Association of Student
Financial Aid Administrators

New England Board of Higher
Education

Southern Regional Education
Board

State Higher Education Executive
Officers

The United Negro College Fund

Western Interstate Commission
for Higher Education

<DATE>

<CHIEF ADMIN NAME>

<ADDR 1>

<ADDR 2>

<CITY STATE ZIP>

Your IPEDS UNITID:

Your PASSWORD:

Dear <NAME>:

<INSTITUTION NAME> has been selected to participate in the field test of the 2008 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:08). The Higher Education Act (Sec. 131 (d) as amended in 1998) mandates that the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) periodically gather information from students and institutions on how students and their families finance education beyond high school.

In response to the continuing need for these data, NPSAS collected information from students and institutions in 1987, 1990, 1993, 1996, 2000, and 2004. NPSAS:08 is being conducted for NCES by RTI International, a not-for-profit research organization. Additional information about our plans for NPSAS:08 is provided in the enclosed NPSAS brochure.

The purpose of the field test is to evaluate survey instruments and procedures so that the full-scale study is as effective as possible. Your institution's participation is crucial to the success of the field test. Institutions selected for the field test will not be selected for the full-scale study.

I am writing to request that you appoint a NPSAS coordinator, who will be asked to send a data file of the students enrolled at your institution. Once a small sample of students has been selected from your institution, the NPSAS coordinator will be asked to provide additional information on the enrollment status, the demographic characteristics, and the financial assistance provided for each sampled student. The sampled students will also be asked to complete a questionnaire on the Internet.

All responses that relate to or describe identifiable characteristics of individuals may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose, unless otherwise compelled by law. The enclosed brochure details our data collection procedures and provides a full description of the laws and procedures safeguarding the confidentiality of questionnaire responses, contact information, and other data collected. Additional information, including reports based on data from previous NPSAS studies, is available on the NPSAS website: <https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/NPSASschool>.

We are aware that you and the staff at your institution are confronted with many competing demands for your time. Therefore, we are providing you—and the coordinator you designate—with this advance notice of the study to allow you adequate time to plan for this data collection effort and, if needed, to contact us for more information prior to the start of student list collection in winter 2007. Once designated, an RTI representative will contact your coordinator to discuss the study timeline and the information needed from your institution.

If you have any questions about the study or procedures involved, please contact the RTI Project Coordinator, Brian Kuhr, at 1-888-NPSAS411 (1-888-677-2741) or via e-mail at NPSASschool@rti.org.

You may also direct questions to NCES by contacting James Griffith at 1-202-502-7387 (e-mail address: James.Griffith@ed.gov).

At your earliest convenience, please complete the *NPSAS Designate a Coordinator* form online at the NPSAS website, using the IPEDS UNITID and password printed on the first page of this letter.

We look forward to your participation in this important study. Thank you for your cooperation and prompt completion of the *NPSAS Designate a Coordinator* form.

Sincerely,



Mark Schneider
Commissioner
National Center for Education Statistics

Enclosures

The NPSAS *Designate a Coordinator* form may be completed online at

<https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/NPSASschool>

To access the online form, enter the user name (which is your IPEDS UNITID) and password printed on the first page of this letter.

Institution Coordinator Early Contacting Letter

**NPSAS
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American Association of
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American Association of Community
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American Association of State Colleges
and Universities

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Association for Institutional Research

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Professions

Career College Association

The Carnegie Foundation for the
Advancement of Teaching

The College Board

Council of Graduate Schools

The Council of Independent Colleges

Hispanic Association of Colleges and
Universities

<DATE>

<COORD NAME>

<ADDR 1>

<ADDR 2>

<CITY STATE ZIP>

Your IPEDS UNITID:

Your PASSWORD:

Dear <NAME>

<INSTITUTION NAME> has been selected to participate in the field test of the 2008 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:08). The Higher Education Act (Sec. 131 (d) as amended in 1998) mandates that the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) periodically gather information from students and institutions on how students and their families finance education beyond high school.

In response to the continuing need for these data, NPSAS collected information from students and institutions in 1987, 1990, 1993, 1996, 2000, and 2004.

Midwestern Higher Education Compact

National Accrediting Commission of
Cosmetology Arts and Sciences

National Association of College and
University Business Officers

National Association for Equal
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National Association of Independent
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National Association of State
Universities and
Land-Grant Colleges

National Association of Student
Financial Aid Administrators

New England Board of Higher
Education

Southern Regional Education Board

State Higher Education Executive
Officers

The United Negro College Fund

Western Interstate Commission for
Higher Education

The purpose of the field test is to evaluate survey forms and procedures so that the full-scale study is as effective as possible. Your institution's participation is crucial to the success of the field test. Institutions selected for the field test will not be asked to participate in the full-scale study.

Additional information about our plans for NPSAS:08 is provided in the enclosed brochure and project timeline.

The chief administrative officer of your institution has selected you as your institution's coordinator for NPSAS:08. You will have three primary responsibilities for NPSAS:08:

Complete the *Institution Registration Page* online at the NPSAS website, within the next few weeks, using the UNITID and password printed at the top of this letter. We will schedule data collection for your institution based on the information you provide. (This can also be done by telephone, if you prefer.)

Oversee the preparation of an enrollment list of students at your institution. These data files will be used to draw a small sample of students from your institution for participation in NPSAS:08. Sampled students will be asked to complete a questionnaire on the Internet.

Complete a separate web-based program requiring institution record information on such things as enrollment status, demographic characteristics, and financial assistance provided for the sampled students.

Complete instructions for your institution's participation will be sent directly to you in advance of your institution's due date. This date is tailored to your institution's term structure. (Your student enrollment list is due 2 weeks after the start of the last term at your institution that includes April 30, 2007.) **In the meantime**, please review the enclosed materials at your earliest convenience.

We are aware that you and other staff at your institution are confronted with many competing demands for your time. We hope that giving you this advance notice of the study will provide you with ample time to plan for your school's participation in NPSAS:08. A project representative will call you in the next few days to ensure that you have received this notification and to answer any questions that you may have. You may also call the NPSAS Help Desk directly at 1-888-NPSAS411(1-888-677-2741).

All responses that relate to or describe identifiable characteristics of individuals may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose, unless otherwise compelled by law. The enclosed materials detail our data collection procedures and provide a detailed description of the laws and procedures safeguarding the confidentiality of questionnaire responses, contact information, and demographic data collected. Additional information, including reports based on data from previous NPSAS studies, is available on the NPSAS website:

<https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/NPSASschool>.

RTI International, the contractor for the study, is a not-for-profit research organization based in North Carolina. If you have questions about the study or procedures, please contact the RTI NPSAS Project Coordinator, Brian Kuhr, at 1-888-677-2741 or via e-mail at NPSASschool@rti.org. You may also direct questions to NCES by contacting James Griffith at 1-202-502-7387 (e-mail address: James.Griffith@ed.gov).

At your earliest convenience, please complete the *Institution Registration Page* online at the NPSAS website, using the IPEDS UNITID and password printed on the first page of this letter.

We look forward to your participation in this important study.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Mark Schneider
Commissioner
National Center for Education Statistics

Enclosures

The NPSAS *Coordinator Response Form* may be completed online at

<https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/NPSASschool>

To access the online form, enter the IPEDS UNITID and password
printed on the first page of this letter.

NPSAS:08
Endorsed by

American Association of
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American Association of State
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Southern Regional Education
 Board

State Higher Education Executive
 Officers

The United Negro College Fund

Western Interstate Commission for
 Higher Education

Initial Letter

<DATE>

<SM NAME>

<ADDRESS 1>

<ADDRESS 2>

<CITY, STATE ZIP>

Dear <SM NAME>:

I am writing to ask you to participate in an important study that will help determine how students and their families meet the cost of education beyond high school. For your participation, I would like for you to complete a questionnaire over the Internet. On average, the questionnaire takes about 25 minutes to complete.

When you access the questionnaire on the Internet, you will be asked questions about how you paid for your school expenses during the 2006–2007 school year, including whether you received financial aid. If you received financial aid, you will be asked whether the amount of aid was enough to meet your educational expenses. If you did not receive financial aid, you will be asked about how you met your school expenses.

Students from all types of institutions and all financial situations have been randomly selected to participate in the 2008 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study. Your responses along with those of other selected students will represent responses of all students enrolled in postsecondary education. Therefore, your participation in this study is critical.

To complete the questionnaire over the Internet:

Go to: <https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/npsas>,

Type the study ID and password (provided below) on the Home/Login page, and Press “Enter” or click “Login” to begin the questionnaire.

RTI International (RTI) of North Carolina is conducting the study for the U.S. Department of Education. To express our appreciation, a **<FILL INC AMT> check will be mailed to you, if you complete the questionnaire by <FILL DATE, 2007.>** If you are unable to complete the survey by that date, an RTI interviewer will call you to complete the questionnaire by telephone.

Participation in this study is voluntary and will not affect any aid or any benefits you receive. The enclosed pamphlet answers many common questions about the study and contains additional information on laws and procedures that protect the confidentiality of your responses.

If you have questions about the study, you can visit our website at <https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/npsas>, you can call us toll-free at 1-877-NPSASNOW (1-877-677-2766), or you can e-mail us at npsas@rti.org. Persons who are hearing or speech-impaired can call us at 1-877-212-7230 (TDD).

We sincerely appreciate your participation and thank you in advance for helping us conduct this very important study.

Sincerely,



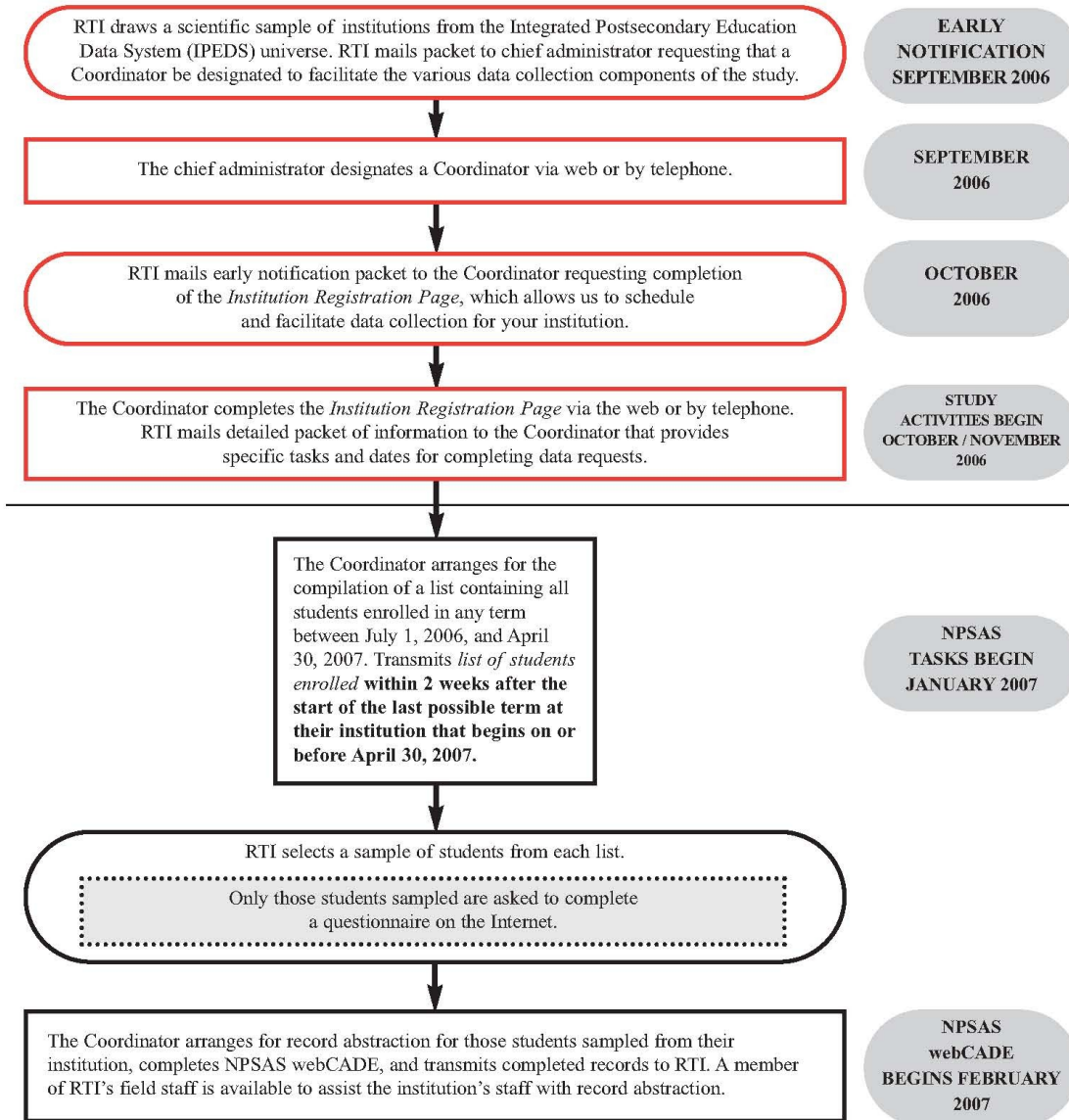
Mark Schneider
 Commissioner
 National Center for Education Statistics

<p>Go to: https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/npsas Your study ID: <ID FILL> Your password: <PASSWORD FILL></p>

The 2008 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study Field Test



Overview of NPSAS Activities



The 2008 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study Field Test
NPSAS:08

For more information about NPSAS:08, please contact
members of the project team at this number:
1-888-NPSAS411 (1-888-677-2741)

KTI International*
Brian Kule
Project Coordinator
NPSAS@kule.com

Dr. John Kionbeno
Project Director, NPSAS
jkr@ed.gov

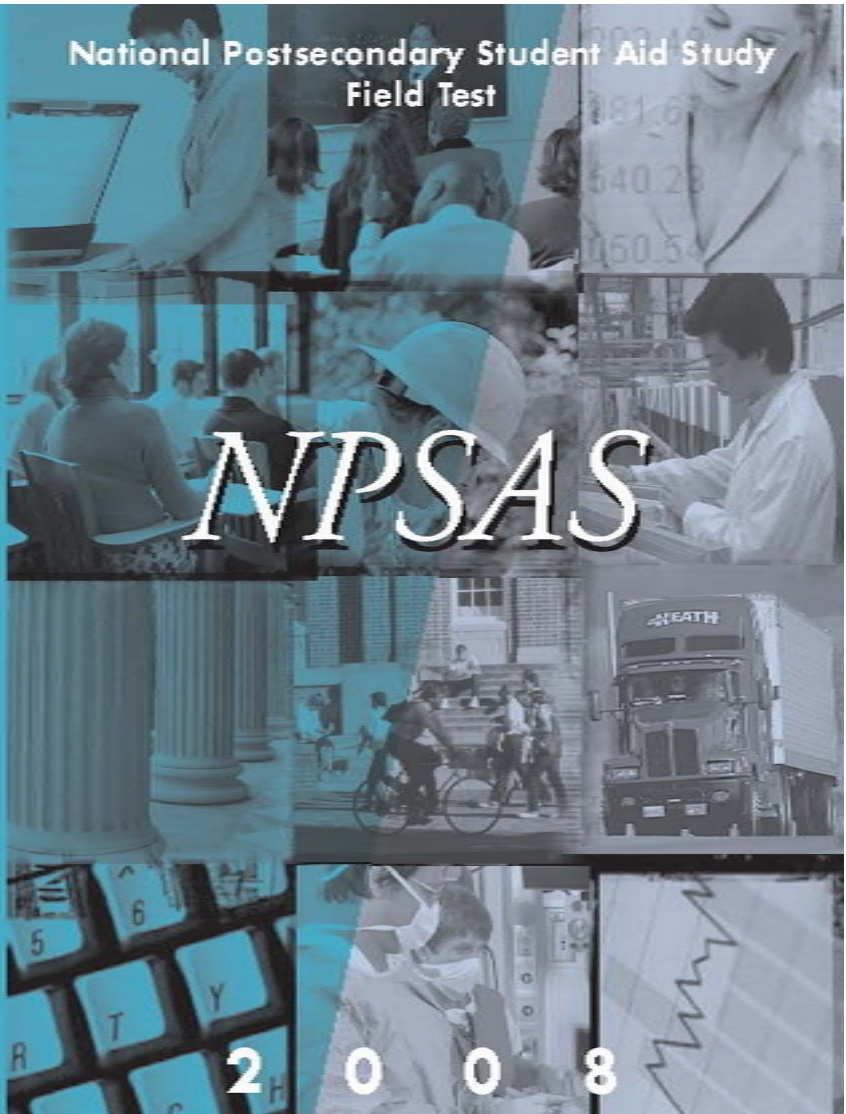
National Center for Education Statistics
Dr. James Griffith
NCES Project Officer, NPSAS
1-202-500-7387
James.Griffith@ed.gov

Sponsored by



U.S. Department of Education
National Center for Education Statistics, Washington, DC
<http://nces.ed.gov>
September 2006

**KTI International is a trade name of Research Triangle Institute*

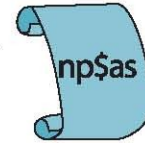


The affordability of education after high school is a vital concern for students and their families. That is why the information gathered by the 2008 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:08) is so important. This year's study explores how families with varying resources are able to pay for postsecondary education and provides comprehensive data on the enrollment status, education goals, employment, and demographic characteristics of students continuing their education after high school.

Basic Issues

National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS)

NPSAS data provide information on the cost of postsecondary education, the distribution of financial aid, and the characteristics of both aided and non-aided students and their families. Research questions that can be studied using the data from NPSAS include the following:



- What is the "net price" of education to the student and family?
- How is student "need" for financial aid being met?
- How much are students borrowing?
- How does the distribution of aid differ by major field of study?
- What is the relationship between employment and a student's degree?
- How do aided and non-aided students compare on total resources available for education and other expenses?
- How do costs and financial aid influence students' choices of schools and majors?
- How have costs and financial aid packages changed over the years?
- How long does it take undergraduate students to complete a bachelor's degree program and how is this related to enrollment, demographic, and financial factors?

Data Analysis and Dissemination

To make the data as useful as possible, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) will publish information in several ways:

- Descriptive reports are published by NCES on selected topics. Publications from previous NPSAS studies may be accessed electronically through NCES's websites at <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/npsas>.
- Special tabulations are provided on request.
- Data files (without identifying information) are available, and
- Presentations on study findings are made at conferences.

How Will the Study Be Conducted?

The NPSAS:08 field test will sample about 300 institutions that will be asked to provide lists of enrolled students. Over 3,000 postsecondary students will be randomly selected from these lists.

The study will consist of the following stages:

FALL 2006

- Beginning in September 2006, the chief administrative officer (CAO) at each institution will be asked to designate a NPSAS:08 institutional coordinator to work with RTI.
- Beginning in October 2006, RTI will contact the institutional coordinator(s) to clarify the tasks, timeline, and responsibilities. Coordinators will be asked to complete a brief registration at <https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/NPSASschool> that identifies the 2006–2007 terms and types of awards granted by the institution.

WINTER 2007

- Beginning in January 2007, the institutional coordinator for each of the 300 institutions participating in NPSAS will supply RTI with a list of students enrolled at the institution. The list will include contact and basic demographic information for students enrolled at the institution during any term that includes July 1, 2006, through April 30, 2007.
- Beginning mid-February 2007, RTI will select samples of students from each enrollment list received.

SPRING 2007

- Beginning February 2007, the institutional coordinator or other designated staff will provide student record information (for example, enrollment status, major, aid package received) for only those students sampled at the institution through a web-based computer assisted data entry (webCADE) instrument, or by uploading an electronic data file to the secure NPSAS website. RTI field staff will be available to assist with the student record abstraction phase.
- Beginning in February 2007, sampled students will complete web-based or telephone interview.

Web-based data entry and file upload applications have been developed to make participation easier and to minimize the burden on institutional staff in providing the data. The software is user friendly and efficient.

Confidentiality Issues

The 2008 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study is conducted under the authority of the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA) (Public Law 107-279) and its predecessor, the National Education Statistics Act (NESA) of 1994, as amended by the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001. Under ESRA, NCES is authorized to collect and disseminate information about education in the United States. Collection is most often done through surveys. NCES is required to follow strict procedures to protect the confidentiality of persons in the **collection, reporting, and publication of data**. The *E-Government Act of 2002* requires that all individually identifiable information supplied by individuals or institutions to a federal agency for statistical purposes under the pledge of confidentiality must be kept confidential and used only for statistical purposes. NCES adheres to the guidelines issued by the Office of Management and Budget in the *Federal Statistical Order of 1997* for ensuring the privacy and confidentiality of data collected for statistical purposes.

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. 1232g) allows for the release of institutional record information to the Secretary of Education or his agent without prior consent of survey members [20 U.S.C. 1232g(b)(3)]. RTI International, as the contractor for NCES, has been given the authority to collect information from institutional records under federal law.

All responses that relate to or describe identifiable characteristics of individuals may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed or used in identifiable form for any other purpose, unless otherwise compelled by law.

Protection of Electronic Files

All electronic files from institution records and student interviews will be carefully protected. Computer accounts used to access data will be password protected with multilevel access controls to ensure that only those individuals with a need to access confidential information are allowed access to it. For the web-based data collection, proven methods of protection for online sessions and data security over the Internet will be used. Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) protocol will be used to encrypt the data over the Internet. All of the data entry modules on this site will be password protected, which will require the user to log in to the site before accessing confidential data. The system will automatically log the user out after 30 minutes of inactivity on the session, which will prevent unauthorized user access to the site.

Protection of Paper Records

All paper records will be maintained in locked storage cabinets. A unique study identification variable (not the Social Security Number or school ID) will be created and maintained for each survey participant to protect against disclosure of confidential data.

Preparation of Data for Public Release

All data released to the general public (for example, statistical tables) will be designed so that it will not be possible to identify specific individuals.

Violations

All personnel with access to individual data will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement and an affidavit of nondisclosure. Anyone who violates the confidentiality provisions of the act when using the data shall be found guilty of a **Class E felony** and can be **imprisoned up to 5 years, and/or fined up to \$250,000**.

Endorsements

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers

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About the Study

The 2008 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study Field Test NPSAS:08

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), part of the U.S. Department of Education, is authorized by federal law to collect, analyze, and publish statistics and other data related to education in the United States and other nations. As part of its mandate, NCES periodically conducts the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS)—a comprehensive study to find out how students and their families pay for education beyond high school. Undergraduate, graduate, and first-professional students—including those who receive aid and those who do not—participate in NPSAS.

NPSAS is the only comprehensive, nationally representative survey of student financial aid. No other single national database contains student-level records for students receiving aid from the numerous and disparate programs funded by the federal government, the states, postsecondary institutions, employers, and private organizations. The purpose of NPSAS is to compile a comprehensive research data set containing information about all of these programs, together with demographic and enrollment data. In addition, NPSAS provides vital information about the affordability of postsecondary education and the effectiveness of existing financial aid programs that will inform public policy at all levels. NPSAS not only includes students enrolled at public and private not-for-profit, 2- and 4-year postsecondary institutions, it also includes those postsecondary institutions that are less than 2 years old or private for-profit.

The purpose of the NPSAS:08 field test is to evaluate survey instruments and procedures so that the full-scale study will be as effective as possible. Your institution's participation is crucial to the success of the field test. Institutions selected for the field test will not be asked to participate in the full-scale study.

Why is the study being conducted?

The National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS) is a large national survey of undergraduate and graduate students, with a special focus on how they finance their education at different types of institutions. Information is collected from institutions and students to get a national picture of the background of students, their educational costs, amount of family support, types of financial aid, student loan debt, and earnings from jobs. The NPSAS survey results are widely used by researchers to study whether the current financial aid programs are adequate to meet student needs. These results may also be used by Congress to make changes to the federal student loan and grant programs.

Students who are completing their postsecondary education—earning a baccalaureate degree—will be part of a special follow-up study in subsequent years. This will help us to learn more about the students who complete their postsecondary education and the factors that influence their success.

When?

If you have additional questions or concerns about the study, please contact the NPSAS Project Director at RTI or the NCES Project Officer listed on the back of this pamphlet.

Who?

What?

Where can I get *more information* about NPSAS?

If you have questions about *your rights* as a study participant, please call RTI's Institutional Review Board at 1-866-214-2043 (a toll-free number) or send an e-mail message to orpe@rti.org.

If you have *questions* or concerns about the study, contact the following:

Dr. John Riccobono
RTI NPSAS Project Director
1-877-NPSAS-NOW
1-877-677-2766
npsas@rti.org

James Griffith
NCES Project Officer
1-202-502-7387
James.Griffith@ed.gov

You may complete your interview or simply learn more about NPSAS by visiting our web site at: <https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/npsas/>.

For more information about NPSAS publications and other educational research, visit the NCES web site at: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/>.



National Center for Education Statistics
U.S. Department of Education
Institute of Education Sciences

September 2006



2008 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study



U.S. Department of Education
Institute of Education Sciences



Who is conducting the study?

The 2008 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:08) is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in the Institute of Education Sciences. The study is conducted under contract by RTI International (RTI), a nonprofit research organization located in North Carolina.

Who is included in the study?

NPSAS:08 consists of a sample of 120,000 students randomly selected from enrollment lists at about 1,600 institutions in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

When will the study be conducted?

Institutions were initially contacted beginning in spring 2006 to take part in NPSAS:08. Beginning in spring 2007, sampled students will be contacted to complete the web-based interview. Students may access the interview on the web at <https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/npsas/> or by calling the NPSAS Help Desk at 1-877-NPSAS-NOW (1-877-677-2766).

Why should I participate?

Participation in this study is voluntary. Your participation, however, is essential to making this study a success. By participating, you have the opportunity to help policymakers, researchers, counselors, and others better understand and meet the financial needs of postsecondary students in the United States and Puerto Rico.

How can I Participate?

You may complete the study in one of two ways:

1. Log in to the web site at <https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/npsas/>.

Once at the site, from the *Home/Login* page, enter your study ID and password, which are printed at the bottom of your NPSAS cover letter. If you need assistance with accessing the questionnaire on the web site, please call the NPSAS Help Desk at 1-877-NPSAS-NOW (1-877-677-2766) or contact us via e-mail at npsas@rti.org.

2. Complete the interview over the phone.

We encourage web completion but, if you prefer, you may complete the questionnaire by telephone with a professionally trained interviewer from RTI. You may

choose to complete the interview when our staff call or set an appointment for a later date. We will attempt to identify a convenient time to call. Students may e-mail questions to RTI staff at npsas@rti.org or call the NPSAS Help Desk at 1-877-NPSAS-NOW (1-877-677-2766) with best times to do the interview.

How Long will this take?

On average, you should complete either the self-administered web-based questionnaire or the interviewer-administered telephone interview in about 25 minutes. Web interview time may vary depending on your Internet connection speed. If you do not have access to a computer with a fast connection, you may prefer to call the Help Desk to complete the interview by telephone.

Will my answers be kept Confidential?

Your answers may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law. The answers that you provide are compiled with the responses from other students and reported to the general public in statistical form.

The following procedures have been implemented to ensure the confidentiality of your responses:

- Your answers are secured behind firewalls and are encrypted during Internet transmission using Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) protocol. All data entry modules are password protected and require the user to log in before accessing confidential data.
- Project staff may be severely fined or imprisoned for disclosure of individual responses.
- Confidentiality procedures are reviewed and approved by RTI's Institutional Review Board (Committee for Protection of Human Subjects).

How can I get a copy of the Results?

Publications from previous studies are currently available from the NCES web site at <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/npsas/>.

Reports can be downloaded or ordered at no charge. Current titles of interest include the following:

Student Financing of Undergraduate Education 2003–2004 (NCES 2006-186)

Student Financing of Graduate and First-Professional Education 2003–2004 (NCES 2006-185)

What have we learned from prior NPSAS studies?

The following are estimates based on information from 80,000 undergraduates, 11,000 graduates, and 1,000 first-professional students enrolled at approximately 1,400 postsecondary institutions during the 2003–2004 academic year.

- Fifty-five percent of undergraduates (about 9.2 million) received some type of financial aid, averaging \$6,265.
- About two out of five undergraduates (39 percent) received some type of federal aid, averaging \$5,230.

Average amounts of selected types of aid for undergraduates: 2003–2004

- Sixty-three percent of all undergraduates enrolled in the 2003–04 academic year received some type of financial aid (grants, loans, work-study, or other). Those who received aid were awarded an average amount of \$7,300.
- About one-half (51 percent) of undergraduates received grants and about one-third (35 percent) took out student loans in 2003–04. Eight percent of all undergraduates received aid through work-study jobs and 7 percent received other types of aid (federal PLUS loans to parents, veterans' benefits, and job training funds).
- The average amount of grant aid received by undergraduates who were awarded grants was \$4,000 in 2003–04. Among those who took out student loans, the average amount borrowed for the 2003–04 academic year was \$5,800. The average work-study award was \$2,000.
- Three out of four (76 percent) undergraduates who were enrolled full time for the full academic year in 2003–04 received some type of financial aid. The average amount of financial aid received by aided full-time, full-year undergraduates was \$9,900.
- About one-half of full-time, full-year undergraduates took out student loans and 62 percent received grants in 2003–04. The average amount borrowed by full-time, full-year undergraduates for the 2003–04 academic year was \$6,200. The amount of grant aid received by full-time, full-year undergraduates in 2003–04 was \$5,600.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. 2005. *2003–04 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study: S(NPSAS:04) Student Financial Aid Estimates for 2003–04* (NCES 2005-158). Washington, DC: 2005.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE NPSAS:08 QUESTIONNAIRE

To complete the self-directed web questionnaire:

1. Go to: <https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/npsas>
2. At the login and password prompts, enter your study ID and password.
3. Press “Enter” or click “Login” to begin the questionnaire.

If you need assistance in completing the self-directed web questionnaire or if you would like to complete the questionnaire over the phone, please call our Help Desk at 1-877-NPSASNOW (1-877-677-2766) for assistance.

You may complete the NPSAS web questionnaire at any time during the data collection period. We will also begin making calls asking study participants to complete the questionnaire over the phone starting on March 4, 2007.

For more information about this study visit the website at

<https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/npsas>

NOTE: The study has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1850-0666. The expiration date is **??/??/??**. Public reporting burden for this information request in its entirety is estimated at 25 minutes per response. You may send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Education, Information Management and Compliance Division, Washington, DC 20202-4651; and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project 1850-0608, Washington, DC 20503.