

WHY IS THIS STUDY IMPORTANT?

Thanks to your help, policymakers and researchers will have a better understanding of how college courses and grades relate to the other information NLSY97 participants have provided about their work experiences, family characteristics, health, financial status, and other important information about their lives. This is a voluntary study, and there are no penalties for not permitting us to obtain your college or university transcripts. However, missing responses make it more difficult to understand the issues that concern people in your community and across the country. You represent the experiences of hundreds of other people your age. We hope we can count on your cooperation in obtaining your transcripts.

WHO AUTHORIZES THIS STUDY?

The sponsor of the study is the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The study is authorized under Title 29, Section 2, of the United States Code. The National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago and the Center for Human Resource Research at The Ohio State University conduct this study under a contract with the Department of Labor. The U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the study and has assigned 1220-0157 as the study's control number. This control number expires on October 31, 2010. Without OMB approval and this number, we would not be able to conduct this study.

WHO SEES MY ANSWERS?

We want to reassure you that your confidentiality is protected by law. In accordance with the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002, the Privacy Act, and other applicable Federal laws, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, its employees and agents, will, to the full extent permitted by law, use the information you provide for statistical purposes only. We will hold your responses in confidence, and we will not disclose them in identifiable form without your informed consent. All the employees who work on the survey at the Bureau of Labor Statistics and its contractors must sign a document agreeing to protect the confidentiality of your data. In fact, only a few people have access to information about your identity because they need that information to carry out their job duties.

Some of your answers will be made available to researchers at the Bureau of Labor Statistics and other government agencies, universities, and private research organizations through publicly available data files. These publicly available files contain no personal identifiers, such as names, addresses, Social Security numbers, and places of work, and exclude any information about the States, counties, metropolitan areas, and other, more detailed geographic locations in which survey participants live, making it much more difficult to figure out the identities of participants. Some researchers are granted special access to data files that include geographic information, but only after those researchers go through a thorough application process at the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Those authorized researchers must sign a written agreement making them official agents of the Bureau of Labor Statistics and requiring them to protect the confidentiality of survey participants. Those researchers are never provided with the personal identities of participants. The National Archives and Records Administration and the General Services Administration may receive copies of survey data and materials because those agencies are responsible for storing the Nation's historical documents.

HOW MUCH TIME WILL IT TAKE TO COMPLETE THIS FORM?

Based on preliminary tests, we expect it will take you about 1 and a half minutes to read and sign this form. If you have any comments regarding this study or recommendations for reducing its length, send them to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Longitudinal Surveys, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Washington, DC 20212.