

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

Attachments VI
Survey to be Cognitively Tested

*NCER- NPSAS Grant Study – Connecting Students with
Financial Aid (CSFA) 2017 Cognitive Testing*

OMB# 1850-0803 v.191

February 2017

Attachment VI – Survey
Follow-up Survey – Survey Instrument

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<<ALL STUDENTS – CONSENT>>

You are being contacted because you agreed to participate in an external research project when you responded to the 2015-16 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:16). For more information go to: <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/npsas/grant/> .

- Yes, Continue on the Survey
- NO

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is authorized to conduct the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS) and its follow up studies, including the Connecting Students with Financial Aid (CSFA) 2017 study, by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C., § 9543), and to collect as part of these studies, under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA, 34 CFR §§ 99.31(a)(3) and 99.35), students' education records from educational agencies or institutions in connection with an evaluation of federally supported education programs. Data collected from or about individual students are used only for statistical or research purposes and may not be disclosed or used, in identifiable form, for any other purpose except as required by law (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C., § 9573). These data are being collected for NCES by RTI International, a nonprofit research organization based in North Carolina.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this voluntary information collection is 1850-XXXX. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average approximately 10 minutes per response, including the time to review instructions, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate, suggestions for improving this survey, or any comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this survey, please write directly to: The Connecting Students with Financial Aid (CSFA) Study, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Potomac Center Plaza, 550 12th St., SW, PCP-4007, Washington, DC 20202.

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<<ALL STUDENTS>>

Did you apply for financial aid from the government to help you with college expenses for the 2017-18 school year (i.e., this year)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> No, I did not apply for financial aid from the government<input type="radio"/> Yes, I applied for financial aid using the following (check all that apply)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> FAFSA (federal financial aid application)<input type="checkbox"/> State financial aid application
Did you apply for financial aid from anyone else (a non-government source) to help you with college expenses for the 2017-18 school year?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> No, I did not apply for financial aid from a non-government source<input type="radio"/> Yes, I applied for financial aid using the following (check all that apply)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> CSS/Financial Aid Profile<input type="checkbox"/> Aid application for my school<input type="checkbox"/> Aid application for another organization
If you have ever applied for government financial aid, how did you learn about the process of applying? <i>Check all that apply.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> Friend<input type="radio"/> Relative<input type="radio"/> Communication or mailing from my school<input type="radio"/> College Faculty or Staff member<input type="radio"/> Community Organization<input type="radio"/> Online website<input type="radio"/> Financial advisor<input type="radio"/> I do not know how to apply for financial aid

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<<SKIP LOGIC: IF A STUDENT DID NOT APPLY FOR GOVERNMENT AID >>

Please choose the statements that apply to you:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> I've applied for financial aid before, but did not receive anything<input type="radio"/> I did not realize that I had to submit a financial aid application each year<input type="radio"/> It was too late to apply for financial aid when I decided to do so<input type="radio"/> It was too much hassle given that I am not eligible for much aid<input type="radio"/> I decided not to enroll during this school year<input type="radio"/> I don't think I am eligible for financial aid (check why below):<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Because my family income is too high to receive financial aid<input type="checkbox"/> Because I don't have good grades<input type="checkbox"/> Because I'm not enrolled full time<input type="checkbox"/> Because I'm not a US Citizen
Do you know what the FAFSA is?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> No, I am not sure what the FAFSA is<input type="radio"/> Yes, I know what the FAFSA is, but I don't know how to complete the form<input type="radio"/> Yes, I know what the FAFSA is and have completed it before

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<<SKIP LOGIC: IF A STUDENT DID APPLY FOR GOVERNMENT AID >>

<p>We're interested in your experiences with applying for Financial Aid. Did you receive assistance from another person to complete the FAFSA the last time you did so? If yes, please indicate from whom. <i>Check all that apply.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Parents <input type="radio"/> Other Relative <input type="radio"/> Friend <input type="radio"/> My college's financial aid or other staff <input type="radio"/> Community Organization <input type="radio"/> Live counselor via phone or online <input type="radio"/> Other <input type="radio"/> I did not receive help from someone else
<p>Please tell us how you submitted your financial aid form? <i>Check all that apply.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> I submitted the FAFSA online <input type="radio"/> I submitted the paper FAFSA <input type="radio"/> I was asked to fix an error or problem with my FAFSA after I initially submitted the form <input type="radio"/> I used the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to complete my FAFSA. <input type="radio"/> I was asked to submit more information for "Verification" by my school <input type="radio"/> My school also required me to complete the another application to apply for financial aid (e.g., the CSS Profile)

<p>We're also interested to know your opinions about the financial aid process. <i>Please select one response to each statement.</i></p>					
<input type="radio"/> I clearly understood the steps to get financial aid for college this year.	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither Agree or Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
<input type="radio"/> I was able to complete the FAFSA myself easily	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither Agree or Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
<input type="radio"/> My financial aid award letter was easy to understand	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither Agree or Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
<input type="radio"/> My school's financial aid office was available to help me understand my financial aid offer	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither Agree or Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
<input type="radio"/> I know where to go if I have questions about my financial aid forms	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither Agree or Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
<input type="radio"/> I lost money by not completing the FAFSA this year	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither Agree or Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>

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<p>How many credits are you taking this term (Fall 2017)? <i>If you are unsure about the number of credits, assume each course is usually 3 credits.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> No Credits (I am not enrolled) <input type="radio"/> Less than 6 credits <input type="radio"/> 6 credits (two 3-credit courses) <input type="radio"/> 7 to 9 credits (approximately 2-3 courses) <input type="radio"/> 10 to 11 credits <input type="radio"/> 12 to 14 credits (full-time enrollment; approx. 4 or more courses) <input type="radio"/> 15 credits or more (full-time enrollment; approx. 4-6 courses)
<p>Are you taking more, fewer, or the same credits as the last time you enrolled in college courses?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Increased – I'm taking more credits (or courses) this term <input type="radio"/> Decreased – I'm taking fewer credits this term <input type="radio"/> No change – I'm taking the same number of credits

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<<SKIP LOGIC: CURRENTLY ENROLLED THIS TERM AND TAKING FEWER THAN 12 CREDITS >>

Why are you taking fewer than 12 credits? <i>Check all that apply.</i>	<input type="radio"/> I do not need additional courses for my degree <input type="radio"/> The courses I need to take are not being offered or did not have space for me (i.e., limited enrollment) <input type="radio"/> I have other work or personal commitments <input type="radio"/> I cannot afford to pay for more courses <input type="radio"/> Other reason
If your financial aid had been doubled, not including loans, would you have taken more credits or courses?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
How many credits do you plan to take the next term? <i>If you are unsure about the number of credits, assume each course is usually 3 credits.</i>	<input type="radio"/> No credits (do not plan to enroll) <input type="radio"/> Less than 6 credits <input type="radio"/> 6 to 8 credits (approximately two courses) <input type="radio"/> 9 to 11 credits (approximately 3 courses) <input type="radio"/> 12 to 14 credits (approximately 4 courses; full-time enrollment) <input type="radio"/> 15 credits or more (approximately 4-6 courses; full-time enrollment)

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<<SKIP LOGIC: CURRENTLY ENROLLED THIS TERM AND TAKING 12 CREDITS OR MORE >>

What made you decide to take 12 or more credits this term? <i>Check all that apply.</i>	<input type="radio"/> I need the courses to complete my degree. <input type="radio"/> I received enough financial aid to make full-time enrollment possible. <input type="radio"/> I am trying to complete my degree as quickly as possible. <input type="radio"/> Other reason
How many credits do you plan to take the next term? <i>If you are unsure about the number of credits, assume each course is usually 3 credits.</i>	<input type="radio"/> No credits (do not plan to enroll) <input type="radio"/> Less than 6 credits <input type="radio"/> 6 to 8 credits (approximately two courses) <input type="radio"/> 9 to 11 credits (approximately 3 courses) <input type="radio"/> 12 to 14 credits (approximately 4 courses; full-time enrollment) <input type="radio"/> 15 credits or more (approximately 4-6 courses; full-time enrollment)

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<<ALL STUDENTS>>

We're also interested to know how financial aid affects your decisions about college. <i>Please select one response to each statement.</i>					
<input type="radio"/> I'm attending my current school because of the financial aid they were able to give me	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither Agree or Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
<input type="radio"/> I'm attending my current school because the available financial aid did not allow me to attend my 1st-choice school	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither Agree or Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
<input type="radio"/> After I learned about my financial aid award, I decided to take more college credits than I was originally planning	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither Agree or Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
<input type="radio"/> I am only able to attend college by taking out loans	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither Agree or Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>

Have you taken out loans to pay for college? If so, what kinds of loans?	<input type="radio"/> Federal Student Loan (e.g., Stafford Loan, Direct Loan, etc.) <input type="radio"/> Federal Parent PLUS Loan <input type="radio"/> Loan from a Bank <input type="radio"/> Loan from a relative or friend <input type="radio"/> Other Source
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<<SKIP LOGIC: IF THE STUDENT TOOK OUT A LOAN >>

How did you decide whether to take out a loan?	<input type="radio"/> Talked to my Parents or Other Relative <input type="radio"/> Talked to a Friend <input type="radio"/> Talked to college's financial aid staff <input type="radio"/> Got help from a Community Organization <input type="radio"/> Using an online resource to consider my options <input type="radio"/> Other <input type="radio"/> I did not receive help from someone else
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We're interested to know what you think about your loans. <i>Please select one response to each statement.</i>					
<input type="radio"/> When I took out my loans, I understood what the repayment plan would be	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither Agree or Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
<input type="radio"/> When I took out my loans, I was confident that I would be able to repay them	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither Agree or Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
<input type="radio"/> My college helped me determine the right amount of loans I needed to take	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither Agree or Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
<input type="radio"/> I am concerned about how I will repay my loans	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither Agree or Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
<input type="radio"/> I have stopped taking college classes because of my student loan debt	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither Agree or Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>

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<<SKIP LOGIC: IF THE STUDENT DID NOT TAKE OUT A LOAN >>

How did you decide to avoid taking out a loan?	<input type="radio"/> Talked to my Parents or Other Relative <input type="radio"/> Talked to a Friend <input type="radio"/> Talked to college's financial aid staff <input type="radio"/> Got help from a Community Organization <input type="radio"/> Using an online resource to consider my options <input type="radio"/> Other <input type="radio"/> I did not receive help from someone else
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We're interested to know what you think about college student loans. <i>Please select one response to each statement.</i>					
<input type="radio"/> I worry about being able to repay a loan	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither Agree or Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
<input type="radio"/> I have other debt I am managing (e.g., credits cards, car loan, mortgage)	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither Agree or Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
<input type="radio"/> I found it confusing to understand my student loan options	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither Agree or Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
<input type="radio"/> I received enough financial aid to be able to avoid taking out loans	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither Agree or Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
<input type="radio"/> I had trouble trying to get a loan and was unable to do so	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither Agree or Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>