

## WHO IS CONDUCTING BPS?

The 2012/17 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:12/17) is being conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), in the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences, with data collection being carried out under contract by RTI International, a nonprofit research organization based in North Carolina.

NCES is authorized to conduct BPS by the Education Sciences Reform Act (ESRA) of 2002 (20 U.S.C. § 9543), and to collect students' education records from educational agencies or institutions for the purpose of evaluating Federally supported education programs under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Acts (FERPA, 34 CRF §§ 99.31(a)(3) and 99.35).

## HOW WILL MY INFORMATION BE PROTECTED?

NCES is required to follow strict procedures to protect personal information in the collection, reporting, and publication of data. Data collected from or about individual students are used only for statistical 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).

Data security procedures for BPS are reviewed and approved by NCES data security staff. 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 is subject to large fines or imprisonment if individual responses are disclosed.

\*RTI International is a registered trademark and a trade name of Research Triangle Institute.



## HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

You can complete the BPS survey online or over the phone.

### ONLINE

Log onto the study website at <https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/bps/> using the Study ID and password provided in your welcome letter.

The survey is mobile-optimized, so it can be easily completed on a mobile device.

### PHONE

Call our Help Desk at **(800) 334-2321** to speak to one of our professional interviewers.



# 2012/17 BEGINNING POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS LONGITUDINAL STUDY (BPS)



## BPS HELP DESK

 **(800) 334-2321**

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

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EDUCATION STATISTICS  
Institute of Education Sciences

NCES 2016-XXX

## WHAT IS BPS?

The 2012/17 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS) follows students who started postsecondary education in the 2011–12 academic year. BPS will survey about 34,000 students in 2017 to collect information about their educational progress and plans, experience in the workforce, earnings and expenses, family status, and personal and professional goals.

## WHY AM I BEING ASKED TO PARTICIPATE?

You are being asked to participate in BPS because you were enrolled in postsecondary education for the first time during the 2011–12 academic year. Postsecondary education is any education beyond high school, including career and technical school, college, and graduate school. Most study participants were first surveyed in 2012 as part of the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study and then again in 2014 for the first BPS follow-up.

## WHAT HAPPENS TO THE RESULTS?

Results from the current study are scheduled to be released in 2018 and will be posted on the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/bps/>), along with results from previous BPS studies. Your responses will be combined with those of other students and will be presented in summary form only. No individually identifiable information will be published. Researchers will use BPS data to explore a wide variety of topics, such as how financial aid influences persistence in and completion of postsecondary education.

## WHY IS MY PARTICIPATION IMPORTANT?

Your survey responses help educators, researchers, and policymakers at the local, state, and national levels understand national trends in enrollment patterns, education goals, employment, and backgrounds of students who pursue education after high school. Your experiences are unique, and, if you choose not to participate in BPS, no one else can be substituted for you.



### Did you know?

The most recent BPS follow-up occurred in 2014 and about 25,000 students who began their postsecondary education in the 2011–12 academic year completed an interview. More than half of these first-time beginning postsecondary students were pursuing a certificate (10 percent) or an associate's degree (42 percent) during their first year. Two years later in 2014, about 16 percent had earned a degree or certificate, 54 percent were still enrolled, and 30 percent were not enrolled.

*Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. 2012/14 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:12/14).*

### Academic Status, 2014

