

What have you been doing since you earned your bachelor's degree?

The Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study wants to know!



What have we learned from previous rounds of B&B?

The current Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study (B&B) is the third in a series of National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) studies focused on bachelor's degree recipients. From B&B sample members who earned their bachelor's degrees during academic year 1999–2000, we learned that

- on average, graduates working full-time earned \$33,100 per year in 2001;
- thirty-three percent completed their bachelor's degrees within 4 years of their high school graduation, 23 percent in 4 to 5 years, and the rest took longer;
- twenty-two percent enrolled in a graduate or advanced degree program following graduation; and
- sixty-two percent borrowed money to help pay for their undergraduate education—with an average amount borrowed of \$17,800 and an average of \$15,100 still owed 1 year after graduation.

To see more results, go to <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2003/2003165.pdf>.

For assistance with B&B, please contact the help desk or visit the study website:

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

B&B Help Desk
1-877-262-4440 (toll-free)
bbemail@rti.org

If you have questions or concerns, you may contact the following:

Dr. Jennifer Wine
B&B Project Director (RTI)
1-866-662-8227 (toll-free)
jennifer@rti.org

Ted Socha
B&B Project Officer (NCES)
1-202-502-7383
ted.socha@ed.gov

If you have questions about your rights as a study participant, please call RTI's Institutional Review Board at 1-866-214-2043 (toll-free) or send an e-mail message to orpe@rti.org regarding IRB number 11881.



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



**BACCALAUREATE
AND BEYOND
LONGITUDINAL STUDY**



ies NATIONAL CENTER FOR
EDUCATION STATISTICS
Institute of Education Sciences

NCES 2009-200



What is B&B?

The Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study (B&B) will survey more than 17,000 graduates, selected from approximately 1,100 U.S. colleges and universities, to find out about their experiences in the early years since earning a bachelor's degree.

The survey will collect information from graduates about their experience in the workforce, their experience in and future plans for graduate and other education, and their personal and professional goals.

Your participation is critical to the success of the study!

How was I chosen to participate?

In 2008, you were selected to participate in the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS), which is designed to help better understand how students and their families pay for college. NPSAS participants who completed requirements for their bachelor's degrees during the 2007-08 academic year are also being asked to participate in B&B.

When will the study be conducted?

Beginning in the summer of 2009, students who completed requirements for their bachelor's degrees during the 2007-08 academic year will be contacted to complete B&B online. Students who do not complete the online interview within 4 weeks will be contacted by a professionally trained interviewer and asked to complete the interview over the telephone. B&B participants will be interviewed for the second follow-up in 2012.

How do I participate?

You may complete the B&B interview in one of two ways:

1. **Online.** Go to the study website at <https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/bb/>. Then, simply enter your Study ID and password and select login.

If you need assistance, call the B&B Help Desk at 1-877-262-4440 (toll-free) or contact us via e-mail at bbemail@rti.org.

2. **By telephone.** If you prefer to complete the B&B interview by telephone, call the B&B Help Desk at 1-877-262-4440 (toll-free) to speak with a professionally trained interviewer.

How long will it take?

On average, the interview lasts about 25 minutes. Interview time will vary depending on your answers and internet connection speed, if completing online.

Are there any benefits or risks?

The risk of participation in this study relates to data security. Given the strict confidentiality and security procedures in place, risks to participation are minimal.

While there are no specific benefits to you for participating in B&B, your participation will help ensure the success of the study and help policymakers better understand the experiences of recent bachelor's degree recipients.

How can I get a copy of the results?

Publications from previous studies are available free of charge on the B&B website at <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/b&b/>. Results from the current study are scheduled to be released in fall 2012 and will be posted on the B&B website as soon as they are available.

Why should I participate?

Policymakers and researchers use B&B data to better understand how earning a bachelor's degree affects the lives of students and their transition to the workforce. Your responses, combined with institutional records, provide information that helps

- researchers understand the variety of ways people attain bachelor's degrees;
- assess the outcomes of postsecondary education; and
- describe the early experiences of graduates in the workforce, particularly in teaching-related fields.

Although participation in this study is voluntary, there is no substitute for your responses.

Will my answers be kept confidential?

Yes, federal law requires that we protect your privacy. Your responses will be used only for statistical purposes and will not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose, except as required by law.

Confidentiality procedures are reviewed and approved by RTI's Institutional Review Board in the Office of Research Protection. Your answers are secured behind firewalls and are encrypted during internet transmission using Secure Socket 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.

Who is conducting the study?

B&B is sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences. The study is being conducted under contract by RTI International, a nonprofit research organization based in North Carolina. B&B is authorized by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-279).