

## WHO IS CONDUCTING BPS?

The 2012/17 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS) Pilot Test is being conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) under the authority of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) of 2008 (20 U.S.C. § 1015) and the Education Sciences Reform Act (ESRA) of 2002 (20 U.S.C. § 9543), which authorize NCES to collect and disseminate information about education in the United States.

BPS data are being collected under contract by RTI International\*, a nonprofit research organization based in North Carolina.

## 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. All individually identifiable information supplied by individuals or institutions 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 (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.

## BPS HELP DESK

 **(800) 334-2321**

 **bps@rti.org**

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

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



2012/17 Beginning Postsecondary  
Students Longitudinal Study  
(BPS) Pilot Test



NCES 2016-419

## WHAT IS BPS?

The 2012/17 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS) Pilot Test follows students who started postsecondary education in the 2010–11 academic year. BPS will survey about 2,300 students in 2016 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 2010–11 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 2011 as part of the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study and then again in 2013 for the first BPS follow-up.

## WHAT HAPPENS TO THE RESULTS?

Results from the current study are scheduled to be released in fall 2018 and will be posted on the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/bps/>) as soon as they are available. 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?

According to a previous BPS conducted in 2009, half of first-time beginning postsecondary students had earned a degree or certificate five years after first enrolling, while 15% had earned no degree or certificate but were still enrolled, and 35% had earned no degree or certificate but were no longer enrolled.

*Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. 2004/09 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:04/09).*

#### Degree Status Five Years after First Enrollment, 2009

