



# 2024 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Data Training Workshop Application Instructions

## OVERVIEW

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), administered by the Assessment Division within the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), is a congressionally mandated program tasked with providing a fair and accurate measurement of educational achievement in reading, mathematics, and other content areas. The NAEP program has a long history of bringing innovation to large-scale assessment and providing training opportunities to expand the community of NAEP researchers, including statisticians, psychometricians, and educational researchers who work with NAEP data.

## NAEP DATA TRAINING WORKSHOP

The summer 2024 NAEP Data Training Workshop will take place on **June 26–28**, in Arlington, VA. This workshop is for quantitative researchers with strong statistical skills who want to learn to conduct data analysis using NAEP data. The training is aimed at advanced graduate students, educational researchers at universities or other research organizations, analysts from state and local education agencies, and those interested in analyzing large-scale assessment data. The training will introduce the unique design features of NAEP and provide guidance and practice in the data analysis strategies required when using NAEP data. It will feature hands-on practice in analyzing NAEP data files using the R program.

During the training, participants will:

- get an overview of NAEP operations, from framework and item development to reporting and dissemination;
- be introduced to the NAEP psychometric models;
- learn about plausible values and complex sample design, including weights and how to use them in analysis;
- be introduced to the Monthly School Survey (MSS) Linking Study and COVID Data Hub data collections;
- receive instruction on how to use the NAEP Data Explorer and EdSurvey (an R statistical package);
- conduct and share statistical analysis projects using NAEP or MSS Linking Study data; and
- learn about the challenges facing NAEP and opportunities in NAEP operations and research.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

There is no fee to attend. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) will provide the training materials, computers, software, and data for the hands-on training. NCES will also pay for transportation to Arlington, VA,<sup>1</sup> three nights of hotel accommodations, and a fixed per diem for meals and incidental expenses during the training. Accepted applicants are expected to be on time and to attend all sessions; financial support will be dependent on their attending and completing the training.

Please note that individuals employed by a holder of a prime contract or subcontract under the Procurement of Research Evaluation and Statistics Task Orders (PRESTO) or NAEP Alliance are ineligible to receive lodging, travel, or per diem reimbursement for this workshop.

## QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants should have a solid understanding of basic statistics and some topics in advanced statistics, such as the procedures used to analyze complex survey data. They should have some familiarity with measurement theory, including item response theory. Please note that R will be used during training activities, so participants are expected to have a basic knowledge of using R to perform statistical analysis.

## COVID-19 PROTOCOLS AND REQUIREMENTS

In order to uphold the health and safety of all participants, it is recommended that individuals perform a thorough self-assessment of their health before attending the training. Those who are feeling unwell or have been in close contact with individuals displaying symptoms are strongly encouraged to prioritize their well-being by refraining from attending. Furthermore, participants are expected to adhere diligently to proper respiratory etiquette, including covering one's mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing. Although the wearing of masks is now optional, it is advisable, especially in situations involving close proximity or for individual comfort.

## TIMELINE

The application period opens April 12 and closes **May 12, 2024**.

Notifications to accepted applicants will be sent no later than **May 24, 2024**.

## APPLICATION SUBMISSION

To submit an application, please visit <https://naep-research.airprojects.org/Explore-Opportunities/NAEP-Data-Training> and click on the “Start Application” button.

The information and materials you will need to provide are described below. An asterisk (\*) indicates that the information is required.

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<sup>1</sup> For international applicants only, financial support for transportation is capped at \$500.

Field(s)	Description
First and last name*	
Middle initial	
Company or institution*	Provide the company/institution name where you work or institution name if enrolled in school.
Job title	
E-mail address*	Use the e-mail where you wish to receive notifications about the NAEP Data Training Program.
Software experience*	Choose your level of experience (extensive, some, or none) with R, SAS, and STATA software packages.
Race/ethnicity	You may choose all the response options that apply. The options are American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Black, Hispanic, White, and more than one race.
Gender	
Resume*	Upload a copy of your resume that includes your educational background, training, employment history, experience with statistical analyses and software programs, honors, and other achievements. <b>Requirements:</b> PDF or MS Word format.
Personal statement*	Upload a personal statement describing your research interests and how the NAEP Data Training Workshop could help you pursue those interests. Describe how the NAEP program would benefit from your research and participation in the training. Research interest in COVID data may be included but is not required. You are encouraged to explore the <b>NAEP Research Resources</b> website ( <a href="https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/researchcenter/">https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/researchcenter/</a> ) prior to developing your research interest statement. <b>Requirements:</b> PDF or MS Word format. 500 words maximum. Please indicate your total word count at the end of your personal statement.
Recommendation	<b>Required for full-time students only.</b> Upload a letter of recommendation from a faculty member who is familiar with your academic ability and research skills. Full-time employees are not required to submit a recommendation regardless of their student status. <b>Requirements:</b> PDF or MS Word format.

**EVALUATION**

Applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Alignment of applicant research interests and NAEP goals (applicants are encouraged to explore the [NAEP Research Resources](#) website prior to developing their area of research interest statement)
- Potential for both applicants and NAEP to benefit from applicant’s participation
- Applicant knowledge and skills in statistical analyses, including familiarity with R

If you have questions about the data training workshop or difficulty using the application site, please contact us at [NAEP\\_RD@air.org](mailto:NAEP_RD@air.org).