



2020 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Data Training Workshop Application Instructions

OVERVIEW

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

NAEP DATA TRAINING WORKSHOP

The Summer 2020 NAEP Data Training Workshop will take place on May 28-30, 2020, 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, such as NAEP's. 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.

The training will provide participants with 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 weights and how to use them in analysis;
- Receive instruction in how to use the NAEP Data Explorer and EdSurvey (an R statistical package);
- Conduct and share statistical analysis projects using NAEP data; and
- Hear about the challenges facing NAEP and opportunities in NAEP operations and research.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

There is no fee to attend the workshop. NCES will provide the training materials and the computers, software, and data for the hands-on activities. NCES will also pay for transportation to Arlington, VA,¹ 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 to and 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 or subcontract under the Education Statistics Services Institutes Network (ESSIN) or NAEP Alliance contracts 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, and 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.

TIMELINE

Application Period: Opens March 2 and closes March 31 at 11:59pm EST.

Notifications to accepted applicants will be sent no later than April 10.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

To submit an application, please visit <http://naep.airprojects.org/Training/Index> 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.

	Field(s)	Description
*	First and last name	
	Middle initial	
*	Company or institution	Provide the company 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 Other.
	Gender	

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

	Field(s)	Description
*	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. Requirements: 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. In addition, describe how the NAEP program would benefit from your research and participation in the training. You are encouraged to explore the NAEP Research Resources website (https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/researchcenter/) prior to developing your research interest statement. Requirements: PDF or MS Word format. 500 words maximum.
*	Recommendation	Required for students only. Upload a letter of recommendation from a faculty member who is familiar with your academic ability and research skills. Requirements: PDF or MS Word format.

EVALUATION

Applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Match between applicants’ research interest and NAEP’s;
- Potential for both applicants and NAEP to benefit from applicant’s participation; and
- Applicants’ 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.