

Conference/Training Connection

Using the NLTS2 Database for Research and Policy Discussion

- Description: The National Center for Special Education Research (NCSEER), Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, will sponsor a 3-day advanced studies seminar on the use of the National Longitudinal Transition Study 2 (NLTS2) database. The NLTS2 is designed to support research on a wide range of topics pertaining to youth with disabilities as they move from secondary school into adult roles.
- Type: Workshop/Training & Technical Assistance
- Audience: This seminar is open to advanced graduate students and faculty members from colleges and universities nationwide and to researchers, education practitioners, and policy analysts from federal, state, and local education and human services agencies and professional associations.
- Location: Washington, DC
- Dates: June 24-26, 2008
- More information: NLTS2 Database Training Seminar Announcement
[For further information about NLTS2, visit the study website](#)
- Contacts: Chonita Milner-Vaughn, Optimal Solutions Group
- Sponsor: [National Center for Special Education Research](#)

NLTS2 Database Training Seminar Announcement

Using the National Longitudinal Transition Study 2 (NLTS2) Database for Research and Policy Discussion

**June 24-26, 2008
Washington, DC**

Purpose: The National Center for Special Education Research (NCSEER), Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, will sponsor a 3-day advanced studies seminar on the use of the National Longitudinal Transition Study 2 (NLTS2) database. The NLTS2 is designed to support research on a wide range of topics pertaining to youth with disabilities as they move from secondary school into adult roles.

This seminar is open to advanced graduate students and faculty members from colleges and universities nationwide and to researchers, education practitioners, and policy analysts from federal, state, and local education and human services agencies and professional associations.

NLTS2: In 2001, the U.S. Department of Education funded the National Longitudinal Transition Study 2 (NLTS2) to provide a national picture of the characteristics, experiences, and outcomes of secondary school students with disabilities as they transition to young adulthood. NLTS2 includes a sample of more than 11,000 youth who were ages 13 through 16 and receiving special education services in seventh grade or above in the 2000-2001 school year. The sample is nationally representative of youth with disabilities as a group and youth in each of the federal special education disability categories in use for students in the NLTS2 age range.

Data are being collected in five waves over a 9-year period and include information from parents, youth, school staff, and school records. NLTS2 is the only source of information on such key aspects of youths' experiences related to their academic achievement, school completion, and postsecondary education and employment.

For further information about NLTS2, including available publications that can be downloaded, visit the study website (<http://www.nlts2.org/index.html>).

Expected Outcome: The overall goal of the training seminar is to prepare researchers to use NLTS2 data in substantive research. The seminar will include both lecture and hands-on instruction. Specifically, the seminar will include the following topics and activities:

- overview of the NLTS2 design, instruments, and database,
- discussion of the methodological and technical issues relevant to NLTS2 data use,
- instruction and practice with NLTS2 data, and
- hands-on experience in conducting analyses of NLTS2 data.

It should be noted that this training seminar does not provide formal instruction on advanced statistical methods and analyses.

Qualifications: Participants attending this training seminar should have a solid understanding of statistical methods, be experienced in using personal computers, and be proficient in the use of SPSS or SAS statistical software packages. Participants will be expected to know how to perform SPSS or SAS procedures, including manipulating data (e.g., joining data tables, subsetting data, recoding data, creating new variables) and running statistical analyses (e.g., frequency distributions, cross-tabulations, regression analyses). Applicants will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- significance of the proposed research;
- alignment of the proposed research plan with NLTS-2 data;
- potential benefits from participation in the seminar;
- prior research experience and training; and
- knowledge and skills in statistical analyses and the use of statistical computer packages.

Financial Support: There is no fee to attend the training seminar. NCSER will provide training materials as well as computers for hands-on practice. NCSER will also pay for transportation and hotel accommodations. Participants will be responsible for their meals during travel and while in Washington, DC.

Location: The training seminar will be held in Washington, DC, June 24-26, 2008. Accepted applicants will be sent information about meeting and lodging arrangements.

Application Instructions: If you are interested in attending the training seminar, please complete and return:

1. A copy of your resume or curriculum vitae.
2. A 2- to 3-page statement (8.5 x 11 inch page; single-spaced; 12 point font; with 1-inch top, bottom, and side margins), clearly describing your research interests, how you plan to use NLTS2 data in your

research, and how you would benefit from the seminar. In addition, your statement should describe your experience and proficiency with the SPSS or SAS procedures described under “Qualifications” above. Longer statements will not be reviewed. **Applicants must demonstrate at least one year of data processing experience with SAS or SPSS to be considered. This is a strict requirement.**

3. A letter of recommendation from your faculty advisor if you are a graduate student.

Your statement should identify the substantive issues and research questions that you intend to study using NLTS2 data. It should clearly indicate why these issues and questions are important and why you believe NLTS2 is an appropriate data source. For example, you should identify the NLTS2 questionnaires and/or survey content areas on which your research will focus. Information regarding questionnaires and content areas is available at the study website (<http://www.nlts2.org/index.html>). You should also indicate what you hope to learn during the seminar that will assist you in your research.

Applications must be submitted via e-mail to:
NCSERTrainingNLTS2@optimalsolutionsgroup.com

Applications will no longer be accepted after April 30, 2008. Applicants who do not meet the qualifications given above will be rated ineligible. Accepted candidates will be notified by May 16, 2008. Accepted candidates will receive the seminar agenda and information about travel arrangements.

If selected for participation, individuals who require accommodations for disabilities to participate in the NLTS2 Database Training Seminar should contact Chonita Milner-Vaughn at least 30 days before the course begins.

We expect the number of applicants will far exceed the number of spaces available. Only complete applications will be considered, and a maximum of two applicants from the same organization or institution can be accepted.

**Access to
Restricted-Use
Data**

Accepted candidates will be required to bring a signed and notarized Affidavit of Nondisclosure to the first training session. A blank affidavit form will be provided to all accepted candidates.

This non-disclosure form permits limited access to restricted-use NLTS2 data during the specified training session only. Course materials do not include the NLTS2 data. Participants interested in performing further analyses and publishing results using NLTS2 data will be required to submit a separate application for licensure. Licenses for use of these restricted-use data may be obtained through NCES (National Center for Education Statistics). Complimentary copies of any papers and publications using NLTS2 data should be sent to NCSER.

More information on Licensing is available at:
<http://nces.ed.gov/statprog/instruct.asp>

**Contact
Information:**

**Inquiries about e-mail submission of NLTS2 Database Training Seminar
application materials:**

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