

Analytical Objectives

NSOPF:04 is designed to address a variety of policy-relevant issues concerning faculty, instructional staff, and postsecondary institutions. The study includes a faculty and an institution questionnaire covering general policies concerning faculty. Information obtained from these two sources can answer important questions about postsecondary education, such as:

- How many full- and part-time faculty and instructional staff are there?
- What are their background characteristics?
- What are their workloads, and how is their time allocated between classroom instruction and other activities?
- What are the current teaching practices and uses of technology among postsecondary faculty and instructional staff?
- How satisfied are they with current working conditions and institutional policies?
- How are faculty and instructional staff compensated by their institutions? How important are other sources of income?
- What are the career and retirement plans of faculty and instructional staff?
- What retirement packages are available to faculty and instructional staff?
- Have institutions changed their policies on granting tenure to faculty members? Are changes anticipated in the future?



How NSOPF:04 Will Be Conducted

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) has contracted with RTI International (RTI) to conduct the NSOPF:04. RTI is an independent, nonprofit contract research organization located in Research Triangle Park, NC that was established by a joint action of the three major universities in North Carolina: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina State University, and Duke University. RTI began operations in 1958 and has provided contract support to NCES on postsecondary research that dates back to 1971.

NSOPF:04 consists of a sample of 35,000 faculty and instructional staff selected from 1,200 sampled institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

You will be able to access the NSOPF faculty and instructional staff questionnaire on the web site at <https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/nsopf/>

All data entry modules on this site will require a unique login for access and will be password protected. Proven methods of protection for online sessions and data security over the Internet will be used. Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) technology will be used to encrypt faculty responses as they travel over the Internet.

Data Analysis and Dissemination

Data collected from NSOPF are made available to the public in various ways:

- Descriptive reports are published by NCES on selected topics. NSOPF publications can be accessed electronically through NCES's web site at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/getpubcats.asp?sid=011/>
- Special tabulations are provided on request.
- Data files (without identifying information) are available.
- Presentations on study findings are made at conferences.

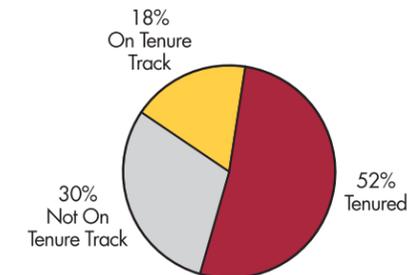
Findings from Prior Data Collection

The following are examples of key results from NSOPF:99:

- There were about 1.1 million faculty and instructional staff in 2- and 4-year postsecondary institutions in the fall of 1998. Approximately 58 percent were employed full time and 42 percent were employed part time by their postsecondary institutions.
- Across all postsecondary institutions, Whites accounted for 84 percent of full-time instructional staff. Asians comprised about 6 percent, African-Americans about 5 percent, Hispanics/Latinos about 3 percent, and American Indians/Alaska Natives about 1 percent.
- Men made up 64 percent of full-time faculty and instructional staff and 52 percent of part-time faculty and instructional staff.
- Full-time instructional faculty and staff spent an average of 11 hours a week in the classroom in the fall of 1998. The number of hours spent teaching classes ranged from 7 hours at private research institutions to 17 hours at public 2-year institutions.
- The average base salary for full-time faculty and instructional staff during the 1998 calendar year was \$57,200. The average total income—base salary, other institutional income, consulting, and other outside income—was \$68,900. For part-time faculty and instructional staff, the average base salary was \$12,000, and the average total income was \$46,300, including income from other (perhaps full-time) employment

Research reports and articles using data from previous NSOPF studies can be accessed through the NCES web site at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/getpubcats.asp?sid=011/>

Tenure Status of Postsecondary Faculty: Fall 1998



Faculty and Instructional Staff Participation

To find out more about NSOPF:04 or to complete the questionnaire, visit the study web site at <https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/nsopf/>

Faculty and instructional staff selected for NSOPF:04 will be able to complete the interview on the web site beginning in January 2004. If preferred, the questionnaire may be completed by telephone with a professionally trained interviewer from RTI. An individual study ID and password will be provided to the study sample members. If assistance is needed with accessing the questionnaire on the web site, or if faculty and instructional staff wish to complete a telephone interview, they may call the NSOPF Help Desk at 1-866-NSOPF04 (1-866-676-7304).

