

2018–2019 HEDS Research Practices Survey

The [HEDS Research Practices Survey](#) assesses students’ research experiences and their skills in finding, evaluating, and citing sources. Over 80 colleges and universities have used the HEDS Research Practices Survey since 2008.

The HEDS Research Practices Survey consists of two sections. The first section of the survey, “Perceptions of Research,” measures students’ experiences with research and the degree to which they experience difficulty in:

- Finding Sources – 7 questions, Cronbach’s $\alpha = 0.79$
- Using Information from Sources – 7 questions, Cronbach’s $\alpha = 0.78$
- Citing Sources – 3 questions, Cronbach’s $\alpha = 0.77$

The second section of the HEDS Research Practices Survey, “Familiarity with Research Terms and Strategies,” tests students’ knowledge in three areas of research skills:

- Finding Sources – 5 questions
- Evaluating Sources – 12 questions
- Citing Sources – 12 questions

Depending on how institutions administer the HEDS Research Practices Survey, they can use the results to assess:

- Entering first-year students’ research skills and precollege research experiences.
- First-year students’ research skills and experiences after one year of college.
- Senior students’ research skills and experiences after four years of college.
- Students’ changes in research skills over the first college term.
- Students’ growth in research skills over the first year or four years of college.
- Students’ research skills and experiences compared with those of students at other institutions.

Faculty and librarians can use information from this survey to develop pedagogies and materials to advance students’ research skills. The survey only takes about 15 minutes to complete.

Survey Administration

You may administer the survey to a cohort of students once or multiple times. A single administration of the HEDS Research Practices Survey provides a snapshot of your students’ skills in finding, evaluating, and citing sources. You can use multiple administrations of the survey to gauge how those skills change over time.

Single Administration

Purpose	Administration Period	Administration Duration	Earliest Possible Start Date	Must Be Completed By
Measure entering first-year students’ research experiences and skills	Beginning of first term	3–6 weeks	August 1, 2018	End of the third week of the first term
Measure first-year or senior students’ research experiences and skills after their first year or four years of college	End of spring term	3–6 weeks	Six weeks prior to the last day of spring classes	Two weeks after the last day of spring classes

You can opt to conduct a single 3–6 week administration of the HEDS Research Practices Survey outside of these standard administration periods. However, we cannot provide comparative data for nonstandard administration periods. If you are interested in a nonstandard administration, please contact us.

Multiple Administrations

Purpose	Administration Periods	Administration Logistics
<p>Measure the change in research skills in the first term of college.</p> <p>This approach is especially helpful for institutions that have a first-term course for entering students with a research or information literacy component.</p>	Beginning and end of the first term of college	<p><u>1st administration</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as beginning-of-first-term single administration <p><u>2nd administration</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey same first-year students at the end of first term • Duration: 2–4 weeks • Earliest possible start date: Two weeks prior to the last day of fall classes • Must be completed by: Start of the next academic term
Measure growth in research skills over the first year of college.	Beginning and end of the first year of college	<p><u>1st administration</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as beginning-of-first-term single administration <p><u>2nd administration</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as end-of-spring-term single administration
Measure growth in research skills over four years of college	Beginning of the first year of college and the end of the fourth year of college	<p><u>1st administration</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as beginning-of-first-term single administration <p><u>2nd administration</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as end-of-spring-term single administration but survey the same students at the end of their fourth year of college

Administration Methods

- **Email method** – A member of the HEDS staff sends your students an individualized email invitation with a unique link to the survey. If your students do not complete the survey, we will send reminders via email. You may customize both the invitation and the reminders, and each message appears to come from your institution.
- **Authentication method** – You provide students with a general survey link, and they use a unique password, such as their student ID or school email address, to log into the survey. We suggest this method when administering the survey in a classroom or computer lab.

For an additional fee, you can select both the email and authentication administration methods. To ensure consistency in the administration process and the integrity of the comparative data, we do not allow institutions to administer any HEDS survey through their own survey engines.

Reports and Data Files

Standard single administration reports and data files	HEDS institutions	Institutions not in HEDS
Summary reports that compare your students to students at (1) all other participating institutions and (2) the highest scoring institutions on key indicators in the HEDS Research Practices Survey.	✓	✓
Frequency report that compares your first-year students' and/or seniors' responses to those of students from the same class year(s) at all other participating institutions.	✓	✓
SPSS and Microsoft Excel file with your participants' responses. (We will add values/labels to SPSS files.)	✓	✓
SPSS and Microsoft Excel file with student-level data from HEDS institutions that participated in the last few years. Institutional identifiers will be included in the file, but participants' identifiers will be removed.	✓	

If you administer the HEDS Research Practices Survey multiple times to the same cohort of students in order to assess their growth in research skills, we will send reports comparing scores for all students who take the survey during the first administration to scores for all students who take the survey during the second administration. For students who take the survey during both administrations, we will also provide a Microsoft Excel file that includes scores on selected survey metrics from the first and second administrations along with the differences between those scores.

We will send institutions that participate in a nonstandard administration a data file with their students' responses, but due to the lack of comparative data, we cannot send any reports.

Fees

	HEDS institutions	Institutions not in HEDS
Base cost – single administration Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One 3–6 week survey administration • One administration method: email or authentication • Up to 1,000 responses • One survey invitation and up to three reminders for email method • 10 supplemental questions • Reports and data files as specified above 	\$500	\$1,800



<p>Base cost – multiple administrations</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two 3–6 week survey administrations (The survey administration period for institutions that administer the survey twice in one term is 2–4 weeks) • One administration method per administration: email or authentication • Up to 1,000 responses per administration • One survey invitation and three reminders for email method per administration • 10 supplemental questions per administration • Reports and data files as specified above 	<p>\$1,300 (\$500 for 1st administration + \$500 for 2nd administration + \$300 fee for report comparing 1st and 2nd administration and accompanying data file)</p>	<p>\$3,900 (\$1,800 for 1st administration + \$1,800 for 2nd administration + \$300 fee for report comparing 1st and 2nd administration and accompanying data file)</p>
Using both the authentication and email administration methods	+ \$250	+ \$250
11 to 20 supplemental questions	+ \$250	+ \$250
Additional responses (<i>after first 1,000 responses; count includes all administration methods, incomplete responses, and duplicate responses; invoiced after the survey closes</i>)	+ \$0.50 per extra response	+ \$0.50 per extra response
Late registration fee (<i>see explanation in registration section below</i>)	+ \$250	+ \$250

Other HEDS Research Practices Survey Information

- **Survey liaison** – You will need to identify one individual from your institution to serve as the survey liaison to handle survey logistics, communicate with the HEDS staff, etc.
- **IRB approval** – The HEDS Research Practices Survey has been [approved](#) by the Wabash College Institutional Review Board (IRB) for use as a voluntary survey. We encourage your institution’s survey liaison to contact the IRB at your institution to determine whether their approval is needed prior to administering the survey.
- **Mandatory participation** – Institutions should not make the survey mandatory or use survey incentives that may affect voluntary participation without consulting their institution’s IRB. In addition, the introduction to the HEDS Research Practices Survey, which informs participants that the survey is voluntary, cannot be altered.
- **Embedding institution names in the survey** – We will configure the survey so that your institution’s name appears prominently on each page.
- **Supplemental questions** – You can add up to 20 supplemental questions, the first 10 of which are free, related to the HEDS Research Practices Survey’s subject matter at the end of the survey. Each subquestion on a multipart or matrix question counts as one supplemental question. We ask that you submit finalized questions during registration. Your data file will include participants’ responses to these questions, but the HEDS reports will not.
- **Subsamples** – You may request unique invitations, reminders, supplemental questions, etc., for different subsamples (e.g., for first-year vs. senior students). For single administrations of this survey, we will treat the surveys for each subsample as separate surveys and the full survey price will apply to each one. For multiple administrations of this survey, you can create different invitations and reminders for different subsamples for no additional fee. However, if you would also like different supplemental questions, survey windows, or data reports for different subsamples, then we will treat the surveys for each subsample as separate surveys and the full survey price will apply to each one.



- **Survey changes** – We made minor revisions to the 2018–2019 HEDS Research Practices Survey. A document listing these small changes is available upon request.
- **Qualtrics** – HEDS administers its surveys via the commercial survey engine Qualtrics.

Registering for the HEDS Research Practices Survey

You can register for the 2018–2019 HEDS Research Practices Survey using our [online registration form](#). At the time of registration, you may choose to pay with a credit card or receive an invoice and pay with a check. We send out invoices at the end of the month in which you register.

You must register at least three weeks prior to the date on which you plan to begin administering the survey. We will make decisions about accepting late registrations on a case-by-case basis. If we can accommodate a late registration, we will charge an additional \$250 late fee.

HEDS Research Practices Survey Administration Contact

Please contact Lisa Kidd (lisa.kidd@hedsconsortium.org or 765-361-6170) if you have any questions. You can download a copy of the survey from our website at: <https://www.hedsconsortium.org/heds-research-practices-survey/>.