



**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**[Docket No.: ED-2019-ICCD-0162]**

**Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and approval; Comment Request; 2016/20 Baccalaureate and Beyond (B&B:16/20) Full-Scale Study**

**AGENCY:** National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Department of Education (ED).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, ED is proposing a revision of an existing information collection.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before **[INSERT THE 30TH DAY AFTER PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE]**.

**ADDRESSES:** To access and review all the documents related to the information collection listed in this notice, please use <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching the Docket ID number ED-2019-ICCD-0162.

Comments submitted in response to this notice should be submitted electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> by selecting the Docket ID number or via postal mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery. If the [regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) site is not available to the public for any reason, ED will temporarily accept comments at [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov). Please include the docket ID number and the title of the information collection request when requesting documents or submitting comments. *Please note that comments submitted by fax or e-mail and those submitted after the comment period will not be accepted.* Written requests for information or comments submitted by postal mail or delivery should be addressed to the Director of the Strategic Collections and Clearance Governance and Strategy Division, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave, SW, LBJ, Room 6W-208B, Washington, DC 20202-4537.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Carrie Clarady, 202-245-6347 or email [NCES.Information.Collections@ed.gov](mailto:NCES.Information.Collections@ed.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Education (ED), in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and

minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the Department's information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. ED is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

*Title of Collection:* 2016/20 Baccalaureate and Beyond (B&B:16/20) Full-Scale Study

*OMB Control Number:* 1850-0926

*Type of Review:* A revision of an existing information collection

*Respondents / Affected Public:* Individuals or Households

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 34,682

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 10,435

*Abstract:* The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) conducts the Baccalaureate and Beyond (B&B) studies. The B&B studies of the education, work, financial, and personal experiences of individuals who have completed a bachelor's degree at a given point in time are a series of longitudinal studies. Every 8 years, students are identified as bachelor's degree recipients through the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS). B&B:16/20 is the second follow-up of a panel of baccalaureate degree recipients identified in the 2015–16 NPSAS, and part of the fourth cohort (B&B:16) of the B&B series. NPSAS:16 is the base year for B&B:16 follow-up interviews in 2017, 2020, and 2026 (anticipated). B&B cohorts prior to B&B:16 were approved under OMB# 1850-0729. The B&B:16 cohort is submitted and reviewed under OMB# 1850-0926. The primary purposes of the B&B studies are to describe the post-baccalaureate paths of new college graduates, with a focus on their experiences in the labor market and post-baccalaureate education, and their education-related debt. B&B also focuses on the continuing education paths of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) graduates, as well as the experiences of those who have begun careers in education of students through the 12th grade. Since graduating from college in 2014-15 for the field test, and 2015-16 for the full-scale study, members of this B&B:16 cohort will begin moving into and out of the workforce, enrolling in additional undergraduate and graduate education, forming

families, and repaying undergraduate education-related debt. Documenting these choices and pathways, along with individual, institutional, and employment characteristics that may be related to those choices, provides critical information on the costs and benefits of a bachelor's degree in today's workforce. B&B studies include both traditional-age and non-traditional-age college graduates, whose education options and choices often diverge considerably, and allow study of the paths taken by these different graduates.

B&B:16/20 panel maintenance activities were cleared in July 2019 and are currently scheduled to continue through February 2020. This request is for the full-scale study student interview data collection scheduled to take place from July 2020 through March 2021.

Dated: March 2, 2020.

**Stephanie Valentine,**

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