ATE Survey FAQs

Updated September 2022

The following information is provided to assist you as you complete the ATE Survey. If you need additional information, please contact Erika Sturgis at atesurvey@evalu-ate.org or (269) 387-5914.

We strongly suggest taking the following actions to facilitate your completion of this and future ATE Surveys:

- Preview the survey questions at atesurvey.evalu-ate.org/info.
- Share these FAQs and the survey questions with anyone involved in completing the survey.
- Identify all potential data sources for each section of the survey that you need to complete.
- Learn more about the survey and find additional survey tips for completing the ATE Survey at: atesurvey.evalu-ate.org/info/#tips-for-success.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. What is this survey about?
2. How/why was I selected for the survey?
3. Who will see my survey responses?
4. Do I have to answer all the questions?
5. Can you just use the information we provided in our annual (Research.gov) report?
6. You ask questions about things we don't keep records on. How should I answer these?

QUESTIONS ABOUT COMPLETING THE SURVEY ONLINE

7. Can someone other than the PI complete the survey?
8. How do I access the survey?
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10. When can/should I submit the survey?

QUESTIONS ABOUT CHANGES TO THE SURVEY

11. What's different about the 2023 version compared with 2022?

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. What is this survey about?
Since 1999, The Evaluation Center at Western Michigan University has been funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to collect and report information about NSF's Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program on an annual basis. NSF uses the information gathered through the survey in reports to Congress and to monitor the program's activities and achievements.

Note that the focus is on the overall ATE program. The information collected is *not* used to evaluate individual projects or centers.

2. How/why was I selected for the survey?
This survey is a census of all ATE active projects and centers that were funded in 2022 or earlier, including those in no-cost extensions. If you are asked to complete 2023 ATE Survey, it is because, according to records provided to EvaluATE by NSF, you are a principal investigator for an active ATE project or center, with a funding start date on or before December 31, 2022.

3. Who will see my survey responses?
Your responses to the ATE Survey are not anonymous to the EvaluATE staff, since your grant number is used to track responses. However, your answers will not be associated with your project/center in any reports or other publications based on the survey data.

The only grantee-level information we provide to NSF pertains to a list of grantees that did and did not complete the survey. Program officers are provided with this information mid-way through the survey period so that they can follow up with non-respondents and encourage their participation. We have not and will not provide individual survey response information to NSF in our reports or personal correspondence. Your individual responses to the survey are not available to NSF staff for use in their determinations regarding continued funding for your grant. If you want that information made available to them, you should include it in your annual report or other correspondence to NSF.

In an effort to respond to NSF's interest in research on ATE matters, we will share our survey data with a select group of researchers who have been funded through the ATE program. Their use of the survey data requires their and their institutions' written agreement that they will report only aggregate information and not identify individual projects or centers. We will follow up with these researchers to monitor their reports and to ensure that they meet their confidentiality commitments.

Because the ATE program is federally funded, ATE grantees' responses to the ATE survey are subject to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. If we receive such a request, we must comply and provide the requested information. It is unlikely that we will receive such requests; we have not received a FOIA request since the survey's initiation in 1999.

4. Do I have to answer all the questions?
Not necessarily. You will only be asked to answer questions that pertain to the activities in which your ATE project engages, based on how you answer certain questions throughout the survey. If you are unable to answer a question, you may skip it.

5. Can you just use the information we provided in our annual (Research.gov) report?
Although there is some overlap between the information required for the survey and ATE project/center annual reports, the ATE Survey is much more specific about ATE activities and achievements. Moreover, there is no way to aggregate the text information provided via Research.gov into a report about the overall ATE program.

6. You ask questions about things we don't keep records on. How should I answer these?

Ideally, you will have records from which to retrieve much of the information we ask for. However, we understand that this may not always be the case. If you do not have the information you need to answer a particular question, you may skip the question.

We suggest that you record your answers to the survey on a hard copy. Keeping this copy on file, along with notes about your data sources, can assist you with this year's survey and beyond.

QUESTIONS ABOUT COMPLETING THE SURVEY ONLINE

7. Can someone other than the PI complete the survey?

Yes. The PI can share access to the survey by simply sharing the survey link or forwarding the email that they received that contains the survey link to other project staff.

While the survey may be completed by multiple members of a project team, it is ultimately the responsibility of the PI to review all answers for accuracy and completeness before ensuring that the survey is submitted.

8. How do I access the survey?

To access the survey, click on the link provided to you via email from Erika Sturgis. The survey will open on February 21, 2023. That link is specific to your project. If you lose your survey link, contact Erika Sturgis at atesurvey@evalu-ate.org or at (269) 387-5914.

9. Will the survey system save my answers automatically?

Your answers will be saved automatically by the system as you complete the survey so you may return later to complete any section. To return to a particular part of the survey, click the blue buttons at the bottom of each page until you arrive at the desired location.

10. When can/should I submit the survey?

To submit your survey, continue to the final page and click the submit button in the bottom right. You will no longer have access to your survey once you submit it, so make sure your responses are complete and accurate before you click submit.

Once you submit your responses, the system will provide you with a copy of your responses in PDF form. Once you see this, you will know your survey submission was successful. If for some reason you need to regain access to your survey, contact Erika Sturgis at atesurvey@evalu-ate.org or at (269) 387-5914.

QUESTIONS ABOUT CHANGES TO THE SURVEY

11. What's different about the 2023 version compared with 2022?

The 2023 ATE Survey maintains most of the same questions as the 2022 survey. However, we have updated directions in some sections of the survey and encourage you to read them carefully. Lastly, each ATE Survey includes a Special Topics section that changes annually. Questions are not included in the survey preview but will not require any additional data collection from project staff.