
Announcement and Call for Applications

**TIER Faculty Development Workshop:
Teaching Transparent Methods of Empirical Research**

**Haverford College
April 1-2, 2016**

Application Deadline: February 19, 2016 (or until all places are filled)

This workshop is intended for social science faculty who are interested in incorporating principles of transparent and reproducible research in their teaching and/or research advising. We invite applications from faculty in all the social sciences, from both graduate and undergraduate programs.

The focus of the workshop will be a system for documenting empirical research that we have developed over a number of years teaching introductory statistics classes and advising senior theses. This system, which we call the TIER documentation protocol, specifies a set of electronic files—including data, computer code, and supplementary information—that students prepare in the course of conducting their research projects, and submit when they turn in their final papers. The guiding principle behind the protocol is that the information included in the documentation should be complete and transparent enough to allow an interested third party to easily and exactly reproduce all the steps of data management and analysis that led from the original data files to the results reported in the paper.

The workshop will include a thorough exposition of the structure and content of the documentation specified by the protocol, strategies we have developed for teaching students to use it to document their own empirical research projects, and the range of pedagogical benefits that result. Since training in research methods takes place in a variety of contexts, we will also discuss ways in which individual instructors can modify the protocol to suit their particular needs.

We expect that, after the workshop, participants will use the TIER protocol—or some version of it suitably adapted to their circumstances—to incorporate the principles of transparency and reproducibility in their classes and research advising.

You can learn more about Project TIER and the TIER documentation protocol at www.haverford.edu/TIER.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

The workshop will last for one and one-half days. The topics to be covered include:

- The broad principles underlying the protocol: replicability, transparency and integrity.
- How those principles are embodied in the protocol.
- Teaching students to use the protocol to document their own research.
- Web platforms for creating and sharing documentation.
- Pedagogical benefits of the protocol.
- Implications of our student-oriented protocol for standards of professional practice in empirical social science research.

We are keenly interested in hearing the participants' views on the protocol, its potential for enhancing student research experiences, and potential obstacles to its dissemination. The workshop will therefore be conducted in a participatory, discussion-oriented format. To facilitate active and inclusive discussion, the number of participants in the workshop will be capped at about 12.

The workshop will be software-neutral, by which we mean that the presentation and discussion of the protocol will be conducted in terms that apply to users of any statistical package that allows users to write and save a sequence of commands in some kind of text file that the program can then read and execute. Stata, SPSS, SAS and R are all examples of programs with this capability. (We use Stata, and so that will be the program used in most of the examples we present, but the principles we discuss will apply to any of the major statistical packages.)

POST-WORKSHOP FOLLOW-UP

After the workshop, we plan to maintain regular contact with the participants so that we can learn about their experiences teaching the protocol to their students, and/or to offer further guidance or assistance. We will also facilitate communication (web-based and/or in person) among participants, so that they are able to share experiences and ideas with one another directly. Our ultimate goal is to foster the development of a national network of educators committed to integrating methods of empirical research documentation, guided by the principle of transparency, into the curricula of the social sciences.

Participants in this workshop who are interested in taking on a substantial and sustained role in the development of Project TIER will also be welcome to apply for the 2016-17 round of TIER Faculty Fellowships. Information about these fellowships is available at <https://www.haverford.edu/sites/default/files/Office/TIER/2016-17-TIER-Fellowship-Announcement.pdf>.

WORKSHOP LOGISTICS

The workshop will take place on the campus of Haverford College, in Haverford, PA, which is located about 10 miles west of Philadelphia.

It will begin at 1:00 PM on Friday, April 1, and end at 4:00 PM on Saturday, April 2.

Housing and meals will be provided free of charge for all participants. Housing will be in single guest rooms on or near the Haverford College campus.

We ask applicants to seek funds for travel expenses from their home institutions. However, for individuals not able to obtain internal support, we can offer financial assistance for travel to and from the workshop.

APPLYING FOR THE WORKSHOP

We will be able to host a maximum of about 12 participants at the workshop. The two main criteria for selection will be:

- (i) Evidence of a candidate's commitment to incorporating the TIER protocol—or a suitably adapted way of teaching students to make their empirical research reproducible and transparent—into her/his own teaching and/or supervision of student research.
- (ii) Evidence of a candidate's motivation to remain in touch with us after the workshop and play an active role in the community of transparency-minded educators we seek to foster.

Please use the online form at <https://forms.haverford.edu/view.php?id=169326> to submit your application.

No recommendation letters are required, but we do ask that you include a letter from a department chair, dean, or some other responsible figure, indicating that your responsibilities in the next few years will include opportunities to incorporate principles and methods discussed at the workshop into your courses and/or research advising.

The application deadline is February 19, 2016. We will continue accepting applications until all spaces in the workshop have been filled, but applications submitted after February 19 may not receive full consideration.

Applicants will be notified of acceptance by Tuesday, February 23.

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