

Join the Office of Evaluation Sciences Statistical Analyst and Methodologist



The Office of Evaluation Sciences (OES) is seeking an analyst with expertise in quantitative social science or applied statistics to serve as a part-time Associate Fellow on our Methods Team.

Based at the General Services Administration (GSA), OES is a team of applied researchers tasked with applying insights from the social and behavioral sciences to federal programs, and testing and learning what works. OES partners with federal agencies to evaluate the effectiveness of new evidence-based interventions on program outcomes and provides agencies evidence to make informed programmatic decisions. OES has completed over [60 randomized evaluations](#) with agency partners such as the Department of Health & Human Services, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Defense, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Dozens of agencies have joined this effort, creating innovative partnerships to tackle some of the most pressing challenges in the United States and abroad, such as opioid prescribing, access to healthcare for Veterans, reducing energy use and costs, and improving government efficiency. [Visit our website for more information on our portfolio to date.](#)

OES is a leader in adopting and promoting methods designed to ensure [transparency and reproducibility](#), and we invite you to join us in this effort. All of our projects include: internal review to ensure that our research designs are sound and have adequate statistical power, review and preregistration of analysis plans before analyzing outcome data, and a full internal replication of every analysis before publishing results. Much of this work is supported by our Methods Team, which is composed of a Fellow (faculty level) and one or more Associate Fellows (typically research assistants). As a member of the Methods Team, you would be contributing to research designs and analysis plans and conducting independent replications of analyses. Methods Team members also craft guidance for the team and for other Federal agencies on methodological issues and represent OES through presentations and academic publications.

Position Details

OES is seeking a Methods Team Associate Fellow to start in July or August 2019 for a period of one year (with an aim to extend for additional years). The Associate Fellow would join OES on-loan from an academic, nonprofit, or government office on a reimbursable basis. We anticipate that the Associate Fellow would spend about 50% of full time (20 hours per week) in this position, though a lesser number of hours may be possible. Methods Team members have typically come from academic institutions. This position can be remote with 2–3 trips to Washington, DC, per year. Responsibilities of a Methods Team Associate Fellow include:

Main Responsibilities

- Conducting full replications of statistical analyses of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and quasi-experimental evaluations, including preparing and cleaning data, conducting statistical analysis, recording analytical methods and results, and collaborating with team members to diagnose and resolve any discrepancies with initial analysis (about 8 per year)
- Advising team members on the design of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and other rigorous evaluations, including estimating statistical power and advising on sample sizes required for achieving adequate power (about 8–10 per year)

- Consulting on and contributing to statistical analysis plans for analyzing randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and other rigorous evaluations (about 8–10 per year)
- Specifying the required content and structure of administrative datasets needed to analyze the results of RCTs and other rigorous evaluations
- Contributing to occasional written guidance for the team on key methodological/statistical issues that arise in the course of OES projects

Additional Responsibilities

- Advising on written and graphical presentation of results for a variety of audiences
- Generating creative visual representations of complex results
- Representing the team presenting at government and external conferences and meetings
- Contributing to publications in academic and other outlets, potentially including papers on methods, specific projects, and meta-analyses
- Supporting OES's goal to be a leader within the Federal government on reproducibility and transparency

Applicant Profile

The OES Methods Team Associate Fellow must have substantial expertise in statistical/econometric analysis, management of large administrative datasets, and statistical experimental design. The candidate must also be experienced with the tools OES uses to ensure reproducibility and transparency in its workflow, which are R, R Markdown, and GitHub. Additionally, applicants must possess:

- Experience designing/conducting/analyzing randomized evaluations in field settings
- Ability to think creatively about design decisions in large-scale RCTs, including decisions about cluster randomization, blocking, and use of covariates
- Ability to effectively explain statistical/methodological concepts to team members from other social scientific disciplines and to broad audiences, orally and in writing
- Excellent project management and organizational skills
- Flexibility, self-motivation, and the ability to manage multiple tasks efficiently in a collaborative team environment
- Strong and concise writing skills under tight deadlines

Application Details

To apply, please send email to oes@gsa.gov with a cover letter, a resume, and a brief writing sample that involves reporting methods and results from a statistical analysis (less than 5 pages). Please provide name and contact information for at least one reference who can speak to your experience with statistical methods. The deadline to submit is **May 12, 2019 (end of day)**. Finalists will be invited to interview and to complete a data analysis exercise.

Other Opportunities with the Office of Evaluation Sciences

If you have other expertise in the social and behavioral sciences and would like to contribute to designing, implementing, and evaluating interventions in a large-scale federal policy environment, please visit our [website](#), where you will find information about our annual recruitment for fellowships in Washington, DC.