

## **SDP-CTE Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the Strategic Data Project for Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Fellowship?**

The Strategic Data Project for Postsecondary Career and Technical Education (SDP-CTE), sponsored by the ECMCF Foundation, is a one-year fellowship program for higher education institutions with postsecondary career and technical education (CTE) programs. The fellowship develops and trains talented data strategists to take on a high impact data or analytic project that is aligned with institutional need and strengthens postsecondary CTE programming at their institution.

### **What does the fellowship entail?**

Accepted SDP ECMCF Fellows receive training in methodology and statistical programming, communication and influence skills, problem solving, and updates on research findings, over the course of four workshops. Fellows will develop leadership and technical skills in data exploration and visualization, and receive ongoing support, training, and mentoring from online sessions, SDP staff at the CEPR (Center for Education Policy Research), and world-class Faculty Advisors. To support their work, fellows are expected to set aside the necessary time to answer their selected analytic question and take on a high impact data or analytic project.

### **Am I eligible to participate?**

The second cohort of the SDP-CTE Fellowship is for current employees working within institutions of higher education that have postsecondary career and technical education (CTE) programs. Qualified SDP-CTE candidates aim to strengthen their use of data to support postsecondary CTE student success and labor market outcomes and possess quantitative knowledge and leadership skills.

We are specifically looking for SDP ECMCF Fellows who:

- Work with postsecondary CTE data and strategy as a core function of their role
- Have the support of their current organization to engage in the fellowship
- Have growth potential within their current organization and are committed to remaining with the organization for at least the duration of the fellowship

### **What is a postsecondary CTE program?**

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) defines postsecondary career and technical education as subbaccalaureate programs that focus on the skills and knowledge required for specific jobs or fields of work. Examples of occupational fields included in this definition are agriculture and natural resources; business support, management, and finance; communications; computer and information sciences; construction; consumer services; education; engineering and architecture; health sciences; manufacturing; marketing; public, social, and protective services; repair; and transportation.

**I am a senior leader and would like an employee at my institution to be considered for the fellowship. Who needs to submit an application?**

We encourage institutions to nominate two individuals from their organization to apply for the fellowship. Each prospective fellow must complete an individual application, which includes a letter of institutional support from a senior leader who can speak to the institution's commitment to the proposed analytic project.

**The application says that two fellows per institution participate in the fellowship. Do I need to find someone to partner with?**

In the SDP-CTE Fellowship, two SDP ECMCF Fellows per institution carry out a strategic data project related to postsecondary career and technical education that will be used to advance student success and program decision-making. We encourage you to partner with a coworker at your institution to collaborate in completing the analytic project. In the past, we have supported institution teams that included pairs of institutional research/institutional effectiveness colleagues, as well as partnerships between institutional research team members and relevant programmatic colleagues (i.e., colleagues from student affairs, academic affairs, etc.).

**I conduct academic research at a higher education institution. Can I apply?**

The SDP-CTE Fellowship is focused on enhancing analytic capacity among data practitioners and professionals working within institutions that have postsecondary career and technical education programs to tackle analytic questions about postsecondary CTE student success on their campus. Therefore, external researchers investigating questions of postsecondary CTE student success are not eligible for the program.

**Can I participate if I live in a country outside of the U.S.?**

Currently, we do not accept international applicants into the fellowship program. The SDP-CTE Fellowship program partners with domestic postsecondary CTE institutions to strengthen success outcomes for CTE students and programs in the United States.

**When do applications open? How do I apply?**

The application for the second cohort of the SDP-CTE Fellowship opens on March 23, 2021. You can access and complete the application by navigating to <https://sdp.smapply.io/>.

**When is the deadline to apply?**

The priority deadline to complete and submit the SDP-CTE application for consideration of Fellowship acceptance is April 30, 2021. The regular deadline is June 30, 2021. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis leading up to these deadlines. We encourage completing this application in advance of the priority and regular deadlines.

**Will the workshops be in-person?**

We are continuing to monitor the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and remain optimistic about the opportunity to reconvene in person when Harvard policy allows for in-person gatherings. Until it is safe to travel, SDP-CTE Fellowship Workshops will continue to be delivered remotely. Travel and lodging will be covered, when it is safe to connect in-person again.

**If you have any questions, please feel free to email [sdp\\_highered@gse.harvard.edu](mailto:sdp_highered@gse.harvard.edu).**