

# MESA Longitudinal Survey of Low Income Students (LSLIS)

## Module A - Personal Characteristics

Measuring the Effectiveness of Student Aid (MESA) Project

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### 1 Listing of Variables by Group

#### List of Variable Groups

1	Citizenship (Prefix: <b>cit</b> ) . . . . .	1
2	Country of Origin (Prefix: <b>ori</b> ) . . . . .	1
3	Ethnic Background (Prefix: <b>eth</b> ) . . . . .	2
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9	Marital Status (Prefix: <b>mar</b> ) . . . . .	4

### 2 Module A: Personal Characteristics and Family Background

#### 2.1 Variable Groups

**Table 1: Citizenship (Prefix: cit)**

Variable	Obs	Unique	Missing	Mean	Min	Max	Label
cit1_y1	10511 2		0 (0%)	1.0	1.0	2.0	Are You A Canadian Citizen?
cit2_y1	10511 3		0 (0%)	1.0	1.0	2.0	Are You A Landed Immigrant?

**Table 2: Country of Origin (Prefix: ori)**

Variable	Obs	Unique	Missing	Mean	Min	Max	Label
ori1_y1	10511 143		12 (0%)	36.7	1.0	148.0	In What Country Were You Born?
ori2_y1	10511 32		83 (3%)	1997	1969	2006	In What Year Did You Come To Canada To Live Permanently?
ori3_y1	10511 23		12 (0%)	25.5	10.0	52.0	Region of Birth (Derived Variable)

**Table 3: Ethnic Background (Prefix: eth)**

Variable	Obs	Unique	Missing	Mean	Min	Max	Label
eth1_y1	10511 13		985 (9%)	2.7	1.0	10.0	Could You Describe Your Cultural Or Racial Background?
eth1o_y1	10511 328		0 (0%)	.	.	.	Other Ethnic Background (See Eth1_Y1)

**Table 4: Language (Prefix: lang)**

Variable	Obs	Unique	Missing	Mean	Min	Max	Label
lang1_y1	10511 27		735 (7%)	3.7	1.0	26.0	What Language Do You Speak When You Are At Home With Your Parents?
lang1o_y1	10511 180		0 (0%)	.	.	.	Other Language Spoken At Home (See Lang1_Y1)

**Table 5:** Siblings (Prefix: **sib**)

Variable	Obs	Unique	Missing	Mean	Min	Max	Label
sib1_y1	10511	15	10 (0%)	1.0	0.0	12.0	How Many Brothers And Sisters Do You Have That Are Older Or The Same Age As You?
sib2_y1	10511	4	41 (1%)	1.2	1.0	2.0	Have Any Of These Brothers Or Sisters Attended University Or Community College?
sib3_y1	10511	13	5 (0%)	1.0	0.0	9.0	How Many Borthers Or Sisters Do You Have That Are Younger Than You?

**Table 6:** Parents/Family Structure (Prefix: **par**)

Variable	Obs	Unique	Missing	Mean	Min	Max	Label
par1_y1	10511	7	125 (1%)	2.0	1.0	6.0	Who Were The Parents/Guardians That You Lived With Most During High School?
par1o_y1	10511	52	0 (0%)	.	.	.	Other Guardians (See Par1_Y1)
par2_y1	10511	8	79 (2%)	2.9	1.0	5.0	How Frequently Did You Have Contact With Your Other Parent?

**Table 7:** Parent/Guardian Education (Prefix: **paed**)

Variable	Obs	Unique	Missing	Mean	Min	Max	Label
paed1_y1	10511	16	724 (7%)	5.8	1.0	12.0	What Was The Highest Level Of Education Completed By Female Guardian?
paed1o_y1	10511	16	0 (0%)	.	.	.	Other Highest Level Of Education Of Female Guardian. (See Paed1_Y1)

(continued on next page)

**Table 7: Parent/Guardian Education (Prefix: paed) – continued**

Variable	Obs	Unique	Missing	mean	Min	Max	Label
paed2_y1	10511	17	610 (8%)	6.1	1.0	15.0	What Was The Highest Level Of Education Completed By Male Guardian?
paed2o_y1	10511	16	0 (0%)	.	.	.	Other Highest Level Of Education Of Male Guardian. (See Paed2_Y1)

**Table 8: Living Arrangement (Prefix: dwel)**

Variable	Obs	Unique	Missing	Mean	Min	Max	Label
dwel1_y1	10511	6	3 (0%)	1.9	1.0	5.0	Do You Currently Live... [PSE/Post-PSE Living Arrangement]
dwel1_y2	7374	7	4 (0%)	2.2	1.0	5.0	PSE Living Arrangement Y2

**Table 9: Marital Status (Prefix: mar)**

Variable	Obs	Unique	Missing	Mean	Min	Max	Label
mar1_y2	7374	6	70 (1%)	1.1	1.0	4.0	Marital Status

## 2.2 Detailed Variable Listing

**Table 10:** Are You A Canadian Citizen? (cit1\_y1)

cit1_y1		Are You A Canadian Citizen?	
Type:	byte	Format:	%14.0g
Label:	LABB	Obs.:	10511
Unique:	2	Missing:	0 ( 0%)
Mean:	1.0	Std. Dev.:	0.2
Min.:	1.0	Max.:	2.0
<i>Freq.</i>	<i>Numeric</i>	<i>Label</i>	
10070	1	Yes	
441	2	No	
GROUP		TOP	

**Table 11:** Are You A Landed Immigrant? (cit2\_y1)

cit2_y1		Are You A Landed Immigrant?	
Type:	byte	Format:	%14.0g
Label:	LABB	Obs.:	10511
Unique:	3	Missing:	0 ( 0%)
Mean:	1.0	Std. Dev.:	0.1
Min.:	1.0	Max.:	2.0
<i>Freq.</i>	<i>Numeric</i>	<i>Label</i>	
431	1	Yes	
10	2	No	
10070	.s	Valid Skip	
GROUP		TOP	

**Table 12:** In What Country Were You Born? (ori1\_y1)

ori1_y1	In What Country Were You Born?		
Type:	long	Format:	%20.0g
Label:	ori1_y1	Obs.:	10511
Unique:	143	Missing:	12 ( 0%)
Mean:	36.7	Std. Dev.:	32.0
Min.:	1.0	Max.:	148.0
<i>Freq.</i>	<i>Numeric</i>	<i>Label</i>	
44	1	Afghanistan	
5	2	Africa	
13	3	Albania	
3	4	Algeria	
4	5	Argentina	
3	6	Armenia	
4	7	Australia	
2	8	Azerbaijan	
1	9	Bahrain	
53	10	Bangladesh	
2	11	Barbados	
6	12	Belarus	
3	13	Belize	
12	14	Bosnia	
1	15	Botswana	
4	16	Brazil	
16	17	Bulgaria	
2	19	Burundi	
2	20	Cambodia	
1	21	Cameroun	
		(more. . .)	
7	.d	.d	
5	.r	.r	

GROUP

TOP

**Table 13:** In What Year Did You Come To Canada To Live Permanently? (ori2\_y1)

ori2_y1	In What Year Did You Come To Canada To Live Permanently?		
Type:	int	Format:	%ty
Label:	LABC	Obs.:	10511
Unique:	32	Missing:	83 ( 3%)
Mean:	1997	Std. Dev.:	4.7
Min.:	1969	Max.:	2006
<i>Freq.</i>	<i>Numeric</i>	<i>Label</i>	
2769	1969 : 2006	Non Missing	
1	.	.	
56	.d	Don't know	
26	.r	Refused	
7659	.s	Valid Skip	
GROUP			TOP

**Table 14:** Region of Birth (Derived Variable) (ori3\_y1)

ori3_y1		Region of Birth (Derived Variable)	
Type:	long	Format:	%31.0g
Label:	ori3_y1	Obs.:	10511
Unique:	23	Missing:	12 ( 0%)
Mean:	25.5	Std. Dev.:	5.5
Min.:	10.0	Max.:	52.0
<i>Freq.</i>	<i>Numeric</i>	<i>Label</i>	
5	10	Africa	
65	11	Eastern Africa	
17	12	Middle Africa	
45	13	Northern Africa	
13	14	Southern Africa	
29	15	Western Africa	
52	21	Central America	
87	22	Latin America and the Carribean	
7737	23	North America	
65	24	South America	
8	31	Central Asia	
802	32	Eastern Asia	
186	33	South-East Asia	
724	34	Southern Asia	
231	35	Western Asia	
217	41	Eastern Europe	
62	42	Northern Europe	
82	43	Southern Europe	
62	44	Western Europe	
8	51	Australia and New Zealand	
		(more. . .)	
7	.d	Don't Know	
5	.r	Refused	

GROUP

TOP

**Table 15:** Could You Describe Your Cultural Or Racial Background? (eth1\_y1)

eth1_y1		Could You Describe Your Cultural Or Racial Background?	
Type:	byte	Format:	%21.0g
Label:	eth1_y1	Obs.:	10511
Unique:	13	Missing:	985 ( 9%)
Mean:	2.7	Std. Dev.:	2.7
Min.:	1.0	Max.:	10.0
<i>Freq.</i>	<i>Numeric</i>	<i>Label</i>	
6138	1	White	
311	2	Aboriginal	
370	3	Black	
148	4	Latin American	
941	5	Chinese	
187	6	Korean	
390	7	Southeast Asian	
722	8	South Asian	
180	9	Arab	
139	10	Central Or West Asian	
42	.d	Don't Know	
925	.o	Other	
18	.r	Refused	
GROUP		TOP	

**Table 16:** Other Ethnic Background (See Eth1\_Y1) (eth1o\_y1)

eth1o_y1		Other Ethnic Background (See Eth1_Y1)	
Type:	str61	Format:	%61s
Label:	(None)	Obs.:	10511
Unique:	328	Missing:	0 ( 0%)
<i>Freq.</i>	<i>Value</i>		
1	1/4 American1/4Italian 1/4 British 1/4 Native Indian		
1	1/5 Irish and Iraq		
1	3/4 Bulgarian 1/4 Russian		
1	3/4 White 1/4 Native		
1	ARABE ET NOIRE		
1	Aboriginal and Romanian		
5	Aboriginal and White		
1	Aboriginal/Scottish/Irish		
1	African-American/African-Canadian		
1	African-American/white		
1	African/Aboriginal		
1	African/Canadian		
1	Afro-Guyanese		
3	Albanian		
2	American		
1	Arabic/Turkish-- born in Iran		
2	Armenian		
12	Asian		
1	Asian/Canadian		
1	Asian/Caucasian		
	(more...)		
9586	Valid Skip		
		GROUP	TOP

**Table 17:** What Language Do You Speak When You Are At Home With Your Parents?  
(lang1\_y1)

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lang1\_y1                      What Language Do You Speak When You Are At Home With Your Parents?

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Type:	byte	Format:	%14.0g
Label:	lang1_y1	Obs.:	10511
Unique:	27	Missing:	735 ( 7%)
Mean:	3.7	Std. Dev.:	6.0
Min.:	1.0	Max.:	26.0

<i>Freq.</i>	<i>Numeric</i>	<i>Label</i>
6712	1	English
1002	2	French
133	3	Arabic
495	4	Cantonese
17	5	Cree
2	6	Danish
1	7	Finnish
28	8	German
5	9	Greek
53	10	Hindi
7	11	Italian
4	12	Japanese
162	13	Korean
259	14	Mandarin
68	15	Polish
15	16	Portuguese
100	17	Punjabi
142	18	Spanish
88	19	Vietnamese
155	21	Urdu
		(more...)
731	.o	Other
4	.r	Refused

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GROUP

TOP

**Table 18:** Other Language Spoken At Home (See Lang1\_Y1) (lang1o\_y1)

lang1o_y1		Other Language Spoken At Home (See Lang1_Y1)	
Type:	str40	Format:	%40s
Label:	(None)	Obs.:	10511
Unique:	180	Missing:	0 ( 0%)
<i>Freq.</i>	<i>Value</i>		
1	African		
12	Albanian		
1	Albanian/English		
3	Amharic		
1	Amharic/English		
1	Amharic/Tigrigna/English		
6	Armenian		
1	Armenian/English		
1	Assamese		
11	Assyrian		
2	Azari		
1	Baluchi		
2	Bari		
1	Bengali/English		
1	Bisaya		
1	Blackfoot/English		
4	Bosnian		
11	Bulgarian		
1	Bulgarian and English		
1	Bulgarian/English		
	(more...)		
9780	Valid Skip		
		GROUP	TOP

**Table 19:** How Many Brothers And Sisters Do You Have That Are Older Or The Same Age As You? (sib1\_y1)

sib1\_y1 How Many Brothers And Sisters Do You Have That Are Older Or The Same Age As You?

Type:	byte	Format:	%14.0g
Label:	LABX	Obs.:	10511
Unique:	15	Missing:	10 ( 0%)
Mean:	1.0	Std. Dev.:	1.2
Min.:	0.0	Max.:	12.0

<i>Freq.</i>	<i>Numeric</i>	<i>Label</i>
4350	0	None
3497	1	1
1631	2	2
632	3	3
217	4	4
83	5	5
40	6	6
23	7	7
10	8	8
8	9	9
4	10	10
5	11	11
1	12	12
6	.d	Don't Know
4	.r	Refused

GROUP

TOP

**Table 20:** Have Any Of These Brothers Or Sisters Attended University Or Community College?  
(sib2\_y1)

sib2_y1	Have Any Of These Brothers Or Sisters Attended University Or Community College?		
Type:	byte	Format:	%14.0g
Label:	LABD	Obs.:	10511
Unique:	4	Missing:	41 ( 1%)
Mean:	1.2	Std. Dev.:	0.4
Min.:	1.0	Max.:	2.0
<i>Freq.</i>	<i>Numeric</i>	<i>Label</i>	
4951	1	Yes	
1159	2	No	
41	.d	Don't Know	
4360	.s	Valid Skip	
GROUP		TOP	

**Table 21:** How Many Borthers Or Sisters Do You Have That Are Younger Than You? (sib3\_y1)

sib3_y1		How Many Borthers Or Sisters Do You Have That Are Younger Than You?	
Type:	byte	Format:	%14.0g
Label:	LABX	Obs.:	10511
Unique:	13	Missing:	5 ( 0%)
Mean:	1.0	Std. Dev.:	1.1
Min.:	0.0	Max.:	9.0
<i>Freq.</i>	<i>Numeric</i>	<i>Label</i>	
4361	0	None	
3647	1	1	
1579	2	2	
553	3	3	
212	4	4	
78	5	5	
37	6	6	
22	7	7	
9	8	8	
4	9	9	
4	.d	Don't Know	
1	.r	Refused	
4	.s	Valid Skip	
		GROUP	TOP

**Table 22:** Who Were The Parents/Guardians That You Lived With Most During High School?  
(par1\_y1)

par1_y1		Who Were The Parents/Guardians That You Lived With Most During High School?	
Type:	byte	Format:	%42.0g
Label:	par1_y1	Obs.:	10511
Unique:	7	Missing:	125 ( 1%)
Mean:	2.0	Std. Dev.:	1.4
Min.:	1.0	Max.:	6.0
<i>Freq.</i>	<i>Numeric</i>	<i>Label</i>	
7000	1	Mother And Father	
323	2	Mother And Stepfather	
51	3	Father And Stepmother	
2591	4	Mother Only	
342	5	Father Only	
79	6	Lived Without Parents Or At An Institution	
125	.o	Other Guardians	
GROUP		TOP	

**Table 23:** Other Guardians (See Par1\_Y1) (par1o\_y1)

par1o_y1		Other Guardians (See Par1_Y1)	
Type:	str63	Format:	%63s
Label:	(None)	Obs.:	10511
Unique:	52	Missing:	0 ( 0%)
<i>Freq.</i>	<i>Value</i>		
1	50 AVEC L'UN , 50 AVEC L'AUTRE.		
1	AVEC SES FRERES ET SOURS		
1	FAMILLE D'ACCUEIL		
2	FRERE		
1	GALE ENTRE LES DEUX		
1	GARDE PARTAGER		
1	MARRAINE		
1	MARRAINE ET PARRAIN		
1	MERE ET GRAND MERE		
2	Refused		
1	TANTE		
1	UNE PARTIE DU SECONDAIRE AVEC UN ET L'AUTRE AVEC L'AUTRE PARENT		
1	VOUS JOUAIT AU HOCKEY FAMILLE D HÉBERGEMENT		
10386	Valid Skip		
2	adoptive mother		
5	alone		
3	aunt		
8	aunt and uncle		
1	back and forth every 2 weeks between mom and dad		
2	boarding school		
	(more...)		
10386	Valid Skip		
GROUP		TOP	

**Table 24:** How Frequently Did You Have Contact With Your Other Parent? (par2\_y1)

par2_y1		How Frequently Did You Have Contact With Your Other Parent?	
Type:	byte	Format:	%48.0g
Label:	par2_y1	Obs.:	10511
Unique:	8	Missing:	79 ( 2%)
Mean:	2.9	Std. Dev.:	1.6
Min.:	1.0	Max.:	5.0
<i>Freq.</i>	<i>Numeric</i>	<i>Label</i>	
866	1	More Than Once A Week	
761	2	Less Than Once A Week But More Than Once A Month	
445	3	Less Than Once A Month But More Than Once A Year	
303	4	Once A Year Or Less	
853	5	Not At All ( Deceased Eg)	
65	.d	Don't Know	
14	.r	Refused	
7204	.s	Valid Skip	
		GROUP	TOP

**Table 25:** What Was The Highest Level Of Education Completed By Female Guardian?  
(paed1\_y1)

paed1_y1		What Was The Highest Level Of Education Completed By Female Guardian?	
Type:	byte	Format:	%55.0g
Label:	paed1_y1	Obs.:	10511
Unique:	16	Missing:	724 ( 7%)
Mean:	5.8	Std. Dev.:	2.3
Min.:	1.0	Max.:	12.0
<i>Freq.</i>	<i>Numeric</i>	<i>Label</i>	
78	1	Less Than Grade 6	
195	2	Completed At Least Grade 6	
588	3	Completed At Least Grade 9	
3229	4	High School Diploma (Or Equivalent)	
744	5	Some College Or University	
108	6	Private Business School	
2126	7	Community College Including Nursing & Teacher's College	
721	8	University Undergraduate Certificate Or Diploma	
1056	9	University Bachelors Degree	
45	10	First Professional Degree	
292	11	Master's Degree	
59	12	Doctorate	
646	.d	Don't Know	
71	.o	Other	
7	.r	Refused	
546	.s	Valid Skip	
		GROUP	TOP

**Table 26:** Other Highest Level Of Education Of Female Guardian. (See Paed1\_Y1) (paed1o\_y1)

paed1o_y1		Other Highest Level Of Education Of Female Guardian. (See Paed1_Y1)	
Type:	str30	Format:	%30s
Label:	(None)	Obs.:	10511
Unique:	16	Missing:	0 ( 0%)
<i>Freq.</i>	<i>Value</i>		
1	Bible College		
1	Business Information Tech.		
1	Civil Engineering Degree		
2	Currently in school		
1	Mature University		
1	Refugees		
1	Still enrolled in University		
1	Teachers Guardian		
1	University back home		
2	University in China		
1	University in Lebanon		
1	University in Poland		
2	University in Russia		
1	University in Taiwan		
54	University not sure what level		
10440	Valid Skip		
		GROUP	TOP

**Table 27:** What Was The Highest Level Of Education Completed By Male Guardian?  
(paed2\_y1)

paed2_y1		What Was The Highest Level Of Education Completed By Male Guardian?	
Type:	byte	Format:	%55.0g
Label:	paed2_y1	Obs.:	10511
Unique:	17	Missing:	610 ( 8%)
Mean:	6.1	Std. Dev.:	2.6
Min.:	1.0	Max.:	15.0
<i>Freq.</i>	<i>Numeric</i>	<i>Label</i>	
55	1	Less Than Grade 6	
161	2	Completed At Least Grade 6	
598	3	Completed At Least Grade 9	
2140	4	High School Diploma (Or Equivalent)	
452	5	Some College Or University	
108	6	Private Business School	
1476	7	Community College Including Nursing & Teacher's College	
620	8	University Undergraduate Certificate Or Diploma	
900	9	University Bachelors Degree	
55	10	First Professional Degree	
400	11	Master's Degree	
139	12	Doctorate	
2	15	Not Applicable	
531	.d	Don't Know	
73	.o	Other	
6	.r	Refused	
2795	.s	Valid Skip	
		GROUP	TOP

**Table 28:** Other Highest Level Of Education Of Male Guardian. (See Paed2\_Y1) (paed2o\_y1)

paed2o_y1		Other Highest Level Of Education Of Male Guardian. (See Paed2_Y1)	
Type:	str30	Format:	%30s
Label:	(None)	Obs.:	10511
Unique:	16	Missing:	0 ( 0%)
<i>Freq.</i>	<i>Value</i>		
3	Accounting		
1	Army		
3	Certified Accountant		
1	Electrician degree in Pakistan		
1	Firefighter/Army reserves		
1	Forestry		
1	LICENCE FRANÇAISE		
1	Left for Navy		
1	Minister		
1	Refugees		
1	Undefined		
2	University Accounting		
1	University in China		
1	University in Ukraine		
54	University not sure what level		
10438	Valid Skip		
		GROUP	TOP

**Table 29:** Do You Currently Live... [PSE/Post-PSE Living Arrangement] (dwel1\_y1)

dwel1_y1		Do You Currently Live... [PSE/Post-PSE Living Arrangement]	
Type:	byte	Format:	%51.0g
Label:	dwel1_y1	Obs.:	10511
Unique:	6	Missing:	3 ( 0%)
Mean:	1.9	Std. Dev.:	1.0
Min.:	1.0	Max.:	5.0
<i>Freq.</i>	<i>Numeric</i>	<i>Label</i>	
4496	1	At Home With Your Parent(s) Or Legal Guardians	
3252	2	In A University Or College Residence	
1880	3	Off-Campus, Away From Your Parent(s), With Roomates	
692	4	Off-Campus, Away From Parents, On Your Own	
188	5	With Spouse, Or Long-Term Partner	
3	.r	Refused	
GROUP		TOP	

**Table 30: PSE Living Arrangement Y2 (dwel1\_y2)**

dwel1_y2		PSE Living Arrangement Y2	
Type:	byte	Format:	%14.0g
Label:	dwel1_y1	Obs.:	7374
Unique:	7	Missing:	4 ( 0%)
Mean:	2.2	Std. Dev.:	1.2
Min.:	1.0	Max.:	5.0
<i>Freq.</i>	<i>Numeric</i>	<i>Label</i>	
3050	1	At Home With Your Parent(s) Or Legal Guardians	
962	2	In A University Or College Residence	
2498	3	Off-Campus, Away From Your Parent(s), With Roomates	
615	4	Off-Campus, Away From Parents, On Your Own	
245	5	With Spouse, Or Long-Term Partner	
1	.	.	
3	.r	Refused	
3137	.s	Valid Skip	
		GROUP	TOP

**Table 31:** Marital Status (mar1\_y2)

mar1_y2		Marital Status	
Type:	byte	Format:	%14.0g
Label:	mar1_y2	Obs.:	7374
Unique:	6	Missing:	70 ( 1%)
Mean:	1.1	Std. Dev.:	0.4
Min.:	1.0	Max.:	4.0
<i>Freq.</i>	<i>Numeric</i>	<i>Label</i>	
6973	1	Single	
137	2	Married	
177	3	Common Law	
17	4	Divorced	
2	.d	Don't know	
68	.o	Other	
3137	.s	Valid Skip	
GROUP		TOP	