



Consent to Participate in a Research Study

Smith College • Northampton, MA

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Title of Study: Requirements at Development Time

Investigator(s): Prof. Alicia M. Grubb, Computer Science, (413) 585-2387.
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Introduction

- You are being asked to be in a research study to evaluate the effectiveness of a proposed feature of our research tool, called GitRE. Specifically, we are evaluating our requirements review assistant.
- As part of this study, you are being asked to complete your normal course work as part of *CSC250*, including any programming assignments.
- You were selected as a possible participant because you are enrolled in *CSC250*.
- We ask that you read this form and ask any questions that you may have before agreeing to be in the study.

Purpose of Study

- The purpose of this investigation is to measure how requirements are reviewed during development.
- We are interested in piloting the GitRE tool in order to determine whether it is suitable for use in programming classes at different stages, before we do we need to test how requirements are reviewed.
- Ultimately, this research may be published in a computer science journal or conference proceeding.

Description of the Study Procedures

- Independent of whether you participate in the study, you will be asked to participate in regular class activities associated with *CSC250*.
- If you decide to volunteer for this study, we will collect and retain the data associated with your in-class activities and course assignments.
- All course work will be kept confidential, meaning your data will not be connected to your name. To accomplish this, your materials will be de-identified by the study investigators. The review of these materials will NOT affect your grade or relationship to the college.
- The course instructor Pablo Frank Bolton will never know if you participated in the study.
- Upon publication, anonymized data will be archived in a repository on Smith ScholarWorks (<https://scholarworks.smith.edu>). Any additional or unpublished data associated with this study will be destroyed after at most 7 years.

Benefits of Being in the Study

- We do not expect you to directly benefit from participating in this study.
- Your participation will help us determine if this approach to teaching Computer Science is right for Smith, and will affect future Smith students.
- The results of this study can be made available to interested research participants. Respondents are welcome to contact the study investigators for more information.

Risks/Discomforts of Being in this Study

- There are no foreseeable (or expected) risks in this study. There may be unknown risks.

Confidentiality

- The information you provide for this study will be kept strictly confidential.

- To protect your privacy, your name will be removed from your materials when they are reviewed, and instead your responses will be assigned a case number. There will be no other link between your case number and your name, except for a secure key file maintained by the researcher.

Payments

- You will not receive any payment/reimbursement for participating in this study.

Right to Refuse or Withdraw

- The decision to participate in this study is entirely up to you. You may refuse to take part in the study at any time without affecting your relationship with the investigators of this study, your course instructor, or Smith College. Your decision will not result in any loss or benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. You have the right to withdraw completely from the study at any point during the process; additionally, you have the right to request that the researcher not use any of your study materials.

Right to Ask Questions and Report Concerns

- You have the right to ask questions about this research study and to have those questions answered by us before, during or after the research. If you have any further questions about the study, at any time feel free to contact me, Alicia M. Grubb (amgrubb@smith.edu).
- If you have any other concerns about your rights as a research participant that have not been answered by the investigators, you may contact Nnamdi Pole, Chair of the Smith College Institutional Review Board at (413) 585-3936.
- If you have any problems or concerns that occur as a result of your participation, you can report them to Nnamdi Pole at the number above. Alternatively, concerns can be reported by completing a Participant Complaint Form, which can be found on the IRB website at www.smith.edu/irb/compliance.htm

Consent

- Your signature below indicates that you have decided to volunteer as a research participant for this study, and that you have read and understood the information provided above. You may contact the researchers to request a copy of this consent form and other materials deemed necessary by the study investigators.

Please indicate your consent to participate in this study (**select only one answer**):

I agree and give my consent to participate in this study. I understand that participation is voluntary and that I may withdraw my consent at any time without penalty.

I do not agree to participate.

Name of Participant: _____ Signature: _____