Student Human Subjects Research Practice
Classroom Projects

Instructions:
Faculty requiring a research project for a course grade (outside of thesis work) is considered "research practice" and will not require IRB review. There projects are under time constraints and are not normally as rigorous as research intended for a thesis or publication. However, students can present results at a conference without IRB approval. Students can declare to a conference that faculty approval was granted.

Application Checklist:

X Students should take the Human Subjects Research: Undergrad & Masters Student course in CITI.

X You must attach your informed consent form, all data collection tools, interview questions, and/or recruitment flyers/emails.

X Evaluation of risks in your research should consider all possible risks associated with your research. For example, although you may not reveal the identity of your subjects in your *results*, collecting identifiable raw data such as audio/video/email/phone creates a risk of identification if data were to be inadequately stored.

Submit Application:
Submit this form to your professor.

Classroom Project/ Research Practice

Faculty Notes:

A. Student Investigator Information	
Student Investigator(s):	Tanner Hart, Harrison Lloyd, Yash Madan
Email(s):	harrisonalloyd@gmail.com, tjhart@csuchico.edu, ymadan@csuchico.edu

B. Project Information	
Project Title:	Usability Test of GymBuddy
CITI certification attached:	☐ Yes
Are other institutions/ organizations involved?	☐ No Do you have support from the organization? ☐ No

C. Project Overview

I. Purpose and Objectives of the Research

This is the "so what?" statement. Why are you are doing the study? Who will benefit? What is the problem or phenomena you are trying to address? Include a brief summary of literature that support the need for your research.

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the usability of our UX design for the GymBuddy application. The participants will be asked to attempt to accomplish some tasks within the app and, at each step, evaluate how easy the task was.

II. Main Research Question or Hypothesis

How effective is the UX design for the GymBuddy application? Can the main goal be accomplished efficiently?

III. Methodology

Your methodology should help you directly answer your RQs/address your hypotheses. Include *all* of the following information:

- *Study Design*—What methods will be used? Quantitative? Qualitative? Mixed? Are you using a survey, interviews, focus groups, experiment?
- *Data Analysis*—How will you analyze the data you obtain in order to answer your research question(s)?

We will provide the application and environment for the participant to go use. They will then be asked to accomplish some basic tasks that we set out to implement. At each step, they will be asked to review the effectiveness of the task and if they were able to accomplish it.

IV. Development of/Contribution to Generalizable Knowledge

Generalizable knowledge means conclusions, facts, or principles derived from particulars that are applicable to or affect a whole category and enhance scientific or academic understanding. What are the potential implications of your research? How will it contribute to academic knowledge?

This study is not for generalized knowledge or the purposes of contributing to such knowledge

V. Results

- *Description of participants in results*—Describe whether participants will be identified individually or as a group in results, and how they will be protected (i.e. the population will be described as students at a Northern CA Community College and the real college name and location will not be revealed; all data will be reported in aggregate in charts and graphs; personal quotes will be linked to a pseudonym and no real names will be used).
- *Dissemination of results*—How do you plan to disseminate your results to peers in your discipline? Class presentation, conference submission, etc.

The participants will be identified in aggregate, not as individuals. They'll be described as Chico State students. The results of the study will be written in a class report

D. Participant Population	
I. Who are the research participants?	Other classmates of Chico State's 431 Usability Engineering class, Spring 2025
VI. Will any special population be included?	No
VII. How will they be recruited? (Be specific with your steps. Include copy of flyer or email if advertising for participants)	They volunteered
VIII. Maximum enrollment:	6
IX. Will an incentive offered? If you feel that incentives are necessary, contact the IRB to make sure you are compliant with related rules and laws, or view this video.	*Incentives for classroom projects should be avoided.* Identifiable data is usually required (email) and it adds an element of possible coercion. Additionally, California lottery law applies to raffles or lotteries and should not be used unless you are certain the law is followed. No

E. Participant Experience

X. Data collection procedures

Discuss when you plan to collect the data, where you will collect it, how long it will take (if it involves several sessions, please break this up by session), and what you are collecting. Every detail should be planned and thought through.

Make sure to attach survey, interview questions, rubrics, inter-rater reliability datasheets, or other data collection tools you plan to use.

We will take physical notes regarding the participants' responses to our questions at each step. It will be hand written and discarded after the study.

a) How long will participation take?	Up to 30 minutes (between 20 - 30)
b) Where will the study be conducted?	Meriam Library study rooms

F. Data Analysis and Maintenance

I. Collection Method

Check all that apply.

☐ Online survey/questionnaire
☐ Qualtrics preferred

☐ Zoom Audio recording/ Video recording

☐ Audio recordings with another device

☐ Paper survey/questionnaire

☐ Note-taking on computer or with notebook

☐ Rubric or checklist

Zoom:
☐ Zoom recordings will remain stored on my U: drive or my Zoom account

Non-Zoom recording device:
☐ Once the recording is obtained, I will transfer the file from the recording device to a password protected hard-drive, OneDrive, or U: drive
☐ I will then delete the file from the recording device

You will do the following with your audio recording(s):
☐ Transcribe audio recordings
☐ Change any names or other identifying information in the transcription to protect subject identity
☐ Delete the audio recording once you are satisfied with your transcription so that you are deleting any link between the participant and their responses.

XI. Collection of Direct and Indirect Identifiers

Check all of the identifiers you plan to collect.

(Direct) Identifiable data:
☐ Name
☐ Email
☐ Phone number
☐ Username
☐ Student ID or other unique ID
☐ Other: _____

(Indirect) Demographic data:
☐ Gender
☐ Age
☐ Race
☐ Sexuality
☐ Income
☐ other demographic data: _____

XII. Who will have access to the raw data? How will confidentiality be maintained during collection and analysis?

The investigators and the professor

XIII. *How* and *when* will data be maintained or destroyed after publication/presentation (password protected, locked drawer; erase files, shred documents; 3 years after completion)**?** For research practice, it is not necessary to retain data for long periods of time.

Any personal identifiable information will be replaced with the participant number. After the data is entered in a spreadsheet, the raw data will be shredded.

G. Benefits and Risks

I. Describe the benefits to the individual (if any) and to society:

XIV. Physical Risk (i.e., exercise, sensors placed on skin, cheek swabs, saliva samples, etc.)

☐ Not applicable ☐ Minimal ☐ Greater than Minimal

a) Describe minimal or greater than minimal risk:	The physical risk is minimal as we are on campus and using a laptop. Technically, a laptop could blow up and harm.
b) Describe how this risk will be addressed/minimized:	We use a good laptop that doesn't do those things.

XV. Psychological Risk (i.e., stress, embarrassment)

☐ Not applicable ☐ Minimal ☐ Greater than Minimal

a) Describe minimal or greater than minimal risk:	The purpose of this study is to test the completeness of our prototype and nothing to do with the interviewee. No such data will be collected.
b) Describe how this risk will be addressed/minimized:	We reassure that we're testing the prototype, not the person

XVI. Sociological and Economic Risk (i.e., employability, reputation, financial standing, criminal prosecution)

☐ Not applicable ☐ Minimal ☐ Greater than Minimal

a) Describe minimal or greater than minimal risk:	We are not collecting any data that relates to this
b) Describe how this risk will be addressed/minimized:	We will not ask or collect any data about this

XVII. Confidentiality Risk (i.e., collection of identifiable information, data maintenance, potential access to data from outside parties) ☐ Not applicable ☐ Minimal ☐ Greater than Minimal

a) Describe minimal or greater than minimal risk:	The data collected in this study will be confidential. The investigators will know the interviewees.
b) Describe how this risk will be addressed/minimized:	This will be minimized by replacing personal data with participant codes, and the raw physical data will be destroyed.

H. Informed Consent

Use the *Exempt Research* informed consent form below.

- Review Section F.II. of your application.
  - Direct identifiers are checked: Use Option #1 (confidential paragraph) in the template.
  - No direct identifiers are checked: Use Option #2 (anonymous paragraph) in the template.
  - At this time, verbal informed consent is the best option during COVID.

I. Procedure for obtaining informed consent from subjects:

Zoom – you can share your screen or share a link to the document in Chat, review the content and ask for verbal consent.
Qualtrics – this is implied consent, they cannot sign anything or verbally agree. Their completion and submission of the survey is their consent.

Reading and agreeing to the informed consent form located below.

XVIII. Attach a copy of the informed consent form, email, or script.

Student Investigator Agreement
In submitting this proposed project and signing below, I certify that: 1. I will conduct the classroom project involving human subjects as presented in the protocol and approved by my faculty supervisor; 2. I will report to my faculty any problems or injuries to subjects.
X_____Harrison Lloyd_____ ____4/29/25_____ Investigator Signature Date

Faculty Agreement for Student Investigators
I will supervise this student's research project and hereby confirm the research complies with best practices regarding the protection of human subjects.
X_____ _____ Faculty Advisor Signature Date

INFORMED CONSENT FORM

Our team name is Gym Buddy, and we are investigators at California State University, Chico. You are invited to participate in a research study about researching the usability of our application design. We created prototypes that replicate the app, and the user will be asked to accomplish some basic tasks, and answer some evaluation questions to determine the effectiveness of the design to complete the task. The results will be used to improve our design.

If you volunteer, you will be asked to use our prototype to navigate and accomplish some basic tasks, and at each step you will answer some questions about how easy the design made accomplishing the task, which will take about 30 minutes.

If you agree to participate, you can stop at any time. This study may expose you to minor risks, but they are not expected to be any greater than risks you experience in daily life. The benefits to this research will be used to improve the usability of our design. Feedback will be encouraged and all will be considered on how to improve our design.

The results will be presented in the class report. You will not be identified in my results. I will protect your identity by: (1) grouping responses/using pseudonyms, (2) storing collected information in a protected location, and (3) removing identifiers as early as possible. Information that can identify you will be deleted or removed from the data after a period of (duration). I will destroy the de-identified data at the end of this semester.

If you have any questions about the research, please contact me at tjhart1@csuchico.edu.

Your participation implies that you have read and understand this information and that you may stop at any time without penalty.