

Obesity bias in students in nursing and allied health programs at a Canadian college
PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT

(1) What is this study about?

You are invited to take part in a research study that aims to investigate **obesity bias in students in nursing and allied health programs at Camosun College**

Students from the School of Health and Human Services, Camosun College will be invited to voluntarily and confidentially participate in the study by completing a survey and attending a presentation and workshop at the HHS Interdisciplinary Education Festival, between March 20 -30, 2022. This Participant Information Statement tells you about the research study. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the research. Please read this sheet carefully and ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about.

(2) Who is running the study?

The study is being carried out by Dr. Cynthia Smith, Dean, School of Health and Human Services, Camosun College and Dr. Thea Werkhoven Sydney, Australia who both have expertise, having published and presented on the topic of stigma and bias related to overweight and obesity in health care.

What will the study involve for me?

As a participant in the study, you will be invited to complete a survey to measure your perceptions of overweight and obesity and if you are attending the HHS Interdisciplinary Education Festival, March 23, 2022 you will participate in the presentation and workshop. You will also complete the survey at the conclusion of the workshop at a later date to determine if attitudes change over time.

(3) How much of my time will the study take?

The online survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete and the presentation and workshop will be an hour. Completing the online survey which will be sent to you at the conclusion of the workshop will take 10 minutes for a total of one hour and 20 minutes maximum

(4) Who can take part in the study?

Any registered student in an HHS program.

(5) Do I have to be in the study? Can I withdraw from the study once I've started?

Being in this study is completely voluntary and you do not have to take part. Your decision whether to participate will not affect your current or future relationship with the researchers or anyone else at Camosun College or your standing or grade in your course/program.

If you decide to take part in the study and then change your mind later, you are free to withdraw at any time. Submitting your completed questionnaires is an indication of your consent to participate in the study. You can withdraw your responses any time before you have submitted the questionnaire or by not completing the second questionnaire.

(6) Are there any risks or costs associated with being in the study?

Aside from giving up your time, there will not be any costs associated with taking part in this study. However there is a risk of distress concerning the topic of stigma, bias, overweight and obesity so if you experience distress and wish to talk about your feelings, please contact [Camosun's Counselling Centre](#) by calling 250-370-3571 or 250-370-4925.

(7) Are there any benefits associated with being in the study?

We cannot guarantee that you will receive any direct benefits from being in the study.

(8) What will happen to information about me that is collected during the study?

By providing your consent, responses collected from each survey will be collected and used for this research study. Any information collected will be stored securely and your information will be kept strictly confidential. Study findings may be published but you will not be individually identifiable in these publications. A summary of the results of the study will be shared with you at a future date.

Confidentiality will always be ensured. Questionnaires completed using SurveyMonkey will not be linked to an IP address, your name will not be collected and the only identifying information collected will be demographic details.

(9) Can I tell other people about the study?

Yes, you are welcome to tell other people about the study.

(10) Will I be told the results of the study?

If you wish to receive the results of this study, you can contact the Dr. Thea Werkhoven at thea.werkhoven@sydney.edu.au and you will be sent a one-page summary of findings after the study has completed.

(11) What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the study?

Research involving humans in British Columbia, Canada is done in compliance with the Tri-Council Policy Statement on Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS 2) and has been shared and approved by the Camosun College Research Ethics Board and its staff.

If you are concerned about the way this study is being conducted or you wish to make a complaint to someone independent from the study, please contact the Camosun College Research Ethics Board using the details outlined below. Please quote the study title and protocol number.

Contact the Research Ethics Board

Karen Shirley

Chair, Research Ethics Board

Camosun College

250-370-4940

REBChair@camosun.bc.ca