

**Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Institutional Review Board**

Consent to Participate in Social/Behavioral Research

You are invited to participate in a Research study that has been approved by the Rensselaer Institutional Review Board (IRB). The IRB reviews and approves all human subject research in accordance with applicable state law and federal law governing Human Subject Research.

DESCRIPTION

Your professor is conducting a research study titled Improving Teaching in STEM Education. The study is designed to improve the learning experience for students in order to help and support them achieve academic success.

METHODS

Your participation consists of an interview, during which you will be asked questions regarding your experience in the class, thoughts about assignments, and ideas for improvement. There may be more than one opportunity to give feedback and thus the time commitment will vary between ½ hour (for a 1:1 interview); you may also choose to participate in a focus group with other students from the class, which could take another hour. You may also complete a survey about your experience in the class, which would take approximately 15 minutes. Your total participation over the course of a semester could take between ½ -2 hours.

RISKS AND BENEFITS

There are no physical risks associated with this study. The psychological/emotional risks are minimal, depending on your comfort with interview situations and survey questions. Overall, the risks associated with this study are minimal, as your answers are a matter of your own experience or opinion. The benefits which may reasonably be expected to result from this study are to improve our teaching of STEM courses thus contributing to the “greater good” in the field of pedagogy ad assessment.

PAYMENTS

You will not receive any form of payment or remuneration for your participation in this research, though you may have a better educational experience than expected.

PARTICIPANT’S RIGHTS

Your participation is voluntary and you have the right to terminate your participation at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. The alternative is not to participate. You may refuse to answer any question. You may ask the researcher to pause or stop writing/recording at any point to ask a question, clarify a response, or to indicate that a response should be deleted from the interview record.

Your decision whether or not to participate will *not* prejudice your future relations with either your professors or the School of Engineering. If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw your consent and to discontinue participation at any time without prejudice. Students’ grades in the course will not be impacted if students choose not to participate in the research.

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DATA COLLECTION AND USE

Interview data will be collected by the methods described in the Methods section. The results of this research, including anonymous quotes, may be presented at scientific or professional meetings, published in scientific journals, or otherwise shared with the general public. **However, no statements will be directly attributed to you, and your name or other identifying information will not be publicly shared or included in published materials.**

DATA PRIVACY AND SECURITY

All recordings of your interview will made using a phone or other recording device will be stored on a computer that is password protected. Original recordings and data transcripts will be deleted at the end of the grant

CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information about this research, please contact:

Amy Svirsky, Office of Institutional Research and Assessment, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 110 8th Street, Troy, NY 12180, Email: svirsa2@rpi.edu

Chair, Institutional Review Board, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, CII 9015, 110 8th Street, Troy, NY 12180 Phone: 518- 276-4873. irb@rpi.edu.

SIGNATURE: CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

By signing and checking the appropriate box below, I confirm that I am at least 18 years of age and that:

☒ **I consent** to participate in the research study described above.

☐ **I do not consent** to participate in the research study described above.

Signed Hayden Fuller Date 01/07/2024

Printed Name Hayden Fuller