



## Consent to Participate in a Research Study Smith College • Northampton, MA

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**Title of Study:** Evaluating the Utility of Goal Model Construction

**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 examining the utility of different methods of goal-modeling. We are examining the process of building goal models and the challenges and benefits offered to non-experts by various methods of goal model construction. As part of this study, you are being asked to do a pre-session questionnaire, a single in-person session, and a brief post-study questionnaire.
- You were selected as a possible participant for this study because you applied to participate in the study, have proficiency in English, without any formal training of goal modeling, and intend to be a registered student at Smith College in the 2019-2020 school year.
- 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 the study is to understand the utility of goal modeling. Goal modeling is used to facilitate stakeholders evaluating potential scenarios and making decisions for projects. A goal modeling language provides users with visualizations of related tasks and resources that contribute to high-level objectives and goals.
- Ultimately, this research will be submitted to Requirements Engineering publication venues.

### Description of the Study Procedures

- If you agree to be in this study, you will be asked to do the following things: you will be asked to complete an online questionnaire, a single in-person modeling session, and a brief follow-up via email. It is expected that you can complete the questionnaires in under ten minutes. The in-person session will take 60-90 minutes.
- The questionnaire will ask you questions about the topic of your choosing (i.e., study abroad, choosing your major, or finding a job after college), and the in-person session will first teach you a basic introduction to goal modeling and then will ask you to use the basic training to build an original model. There are no correct answers and we will not be evaluating the correctness of your individual responses, as the purpose of this study is to explore the utility of goal models. If you choose to participate, you should complete the information at the end of this consent letter.
- Upon collection, Prof. Grubb will store all collected data (interview transcripts, written notes, electronic data, and survey responses) until the data is anonymized and coded for analysis. All electronic data will be stored securely on a Smith College server, and all physical data will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in Prof. Grubb's office at Smith College. All information will be destroyed after 7 years.
- If you would like to participate and require materials to be presented in an alternative format (e.g., large font), please contact Alicia M. Grubb at amgrubb@smith.edu or by telephone at (413) 585-2387.

### Risks/Discomforts of Being in this Study

- There are no reasonable foreseeable (or expected) risks. There may be unknown risks.

### Benefits of Being in the Study

- We hope participating in this survey enables you to use requirements engineering techniques to approach the problem or scenario from your own life chosen to model for the in-person session. Participating in this study may help you gain insights into an important decision in your life.

### Confidentiality

- The records of this study will be kept strictly confidential. Research records will be kept in a locked file, and all electronic information will be secured using a password protected file. Audio recordings of the interviews conducted during this study will be securely stored on a Smith server until transcription is completed. After 7 years, the anonymized data will be deleted from the server and all physical copies will be destroyed. We will not include any information in any report we may publish that would make it possible to identify you.

### Payments

- You will receive a payment of \$15.00 in cash upon completion of the in-person session. Participants who do not complete the in-person session will not be compensated.

### 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 or Smith College. Your decision to refuse will not result in any loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. You have the right not to answer any single question, as well as 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 material, ***prior to data anonymization (approximately one week after the in-person session)***. Participants who withdraw prior to the completion of the in-person session will not receive compensation.

### 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 me before, during or after the research. If you have any further questions about the study, at any time feel free to contact Prof. Alicia M. Grubb at [amgrubb@smith.edu](mailto:amgrubb@smith.edu) or by telephone at (413) 585-2387. If you like, a summary of the results of the study will be sent to you. If you have any other concerns about your rights as a research participant that have not been answered by the investigators, you may contact the Smith College Institutional Review Board at [irb@smith.edu](mailto:irb@smith.edu) or (413) 585-3562.
- If you have any problems or concerns that occur as a result of your participation, you can report them to the IRB using the contact information above. Alternatively, concerns can be reported by completing a Participant Complaint Form, which can found on the IRB website at <https://www.smith.edu/academics/institutional-review-board/compliance>

### 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 will be given a signed and dated copy of this form to keep, along with any other printed materials deemed necessary by the study investigators.

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- ☐ I agree to be audiotaped for this interview
- ☐ I agree to be interviewed, but I do not want the interview to be taped

☐ **I confirm that I satisfy the eligibility requirements for this study described above**

Name of Participant (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Participant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Investigator(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_