

Information Sheet for Participation in a Research Study

Principal Investigator: **Dr. Chris Brown**

IRB# and Title of Study: **IRB #21-954; Gaps in Software Engineering Education**

Sponsor: **N/A**

You are invited to participate in a research study. This form includes information about the study and contact information if you have any questions.

## WHAT SHOULD I KNOW?

If you decide to participate in this study, you will complete a survey for professional software engineers exploring gaps that recent college graduates have when they join the software industry. *As part of the study, you will complete a survey about your experiences with newly hired developers at your company.* The survey will ask you to rank the abilities of new developers in their soft and hard skills and have several demographic and open-ended questions for your response.

The survey should take approximately 10 minutes of your time.

We do not anticipate any risks from completing this study.

You must be a professional software engineer 18 years or older to participate in this study. Participants can choose whether to be in this study or not. If you volunteer to be in this study, you may withdraw at any time without consequences. You may also refuse to answer any questions that are not required you don’t want to answer and remain in the study. The investigator may withdraw you from this research if circumstances arise which warrant doing so.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

We will do our best to protect the confidentiality of the information we gather from you, but we cannot guarantee 100% confidentiality.

Your responses are confidential, so no one can associate your answers back to you. Please do not use any names or identifying information for any of your colleagues in your survey responses. Your company and role will be used in aggregate to describe the survey population and will not be linked to each other. You only need to provide your contact information (name, phone number, and email address) if you would like to sign up to participate in a separate interview if you provide this information.

Any data collected during this research study will be kept confidential by the researchers. Your responses will be confidential and viewed only by the research team. The researchers will store the data using an confidential participant ID. The researchers will maintain a list that includes a key to the code separate from the data collected. The master key and the recordings will be stored for 3 years after the study has been completed and then destroyed.

## WHO CAN I TALK TO?

If you have any questions or concerns about the research, please feel free to contact Dr. Chris Brown (dcbrown@cvt.edu).You are not waiving any legal claims, rights or remedies because of your participation in this research study. If you have questions regarding your rights as a research participant, contact the Virginia Tech HRPP Office at 540-231-3732 ([irb@vt.edu](mailto:irb@vt.edu)[)](mailto:irb@vt.edu)).

**If you would like to participate in this survey, click the following link to begin:**

***https://virginiatech.questionpro.com/t/AUGVOZpcM3***

***Please print out a copy of this information sheet for your records.***