**Exploring the Academic Experiences of Undocumented Hispanic-origin Students at Texas State**

1. Potential subjects: Participants will be undocumented Hispanic-origin undergraduate students enrolled at TXST. It is anticipated that a minimum of fifteen students will participate in the study. The sample will include male and female participants who are in the age of range 18-27, of Hispanic-origin, and in good health. There are no considerations of "special class" that apply.

2. Recruitment and consent: Participants will be recruited through a snowball sampling method. Initial participants have been identified and will be asked to provide the names of other potential participants. A written consent form will be provided by the researcher at the time of the interview. The researcher will verbally explain informed consent and respond to any questions. In order to maintain privacy, a signature on the consent form will not be requested. Rather, the consent form indicates that voluntary participation in the interview signifies informed consent. A copy of the consent form is attached.

3. Methodology: The study will use a mixed methodology. Qualitative data will be collected via the *TXST Fact Book* and other relevant sources, which provide descriptive data on the population being studied. Qualitative data in the form of individual interviews will be collected via semi-structured face-to-face or telephone interviews of approximately one to two hour duration.

4. Risks: There are minimal potential physical, social, or legal risks associated with this study. The research and supervisor have spoken to several administrators on campus who state that information on a student's immigration status is not collected nor it is considered relevant to their student status or academic work at Texas State. Since no written record of a participants name will be maintained, there is an extremely remote likelihood of any potential risk.

5. Procedures for protecting minimizing risks: Participants will be voluntary and ethical research guidelines will be followed. Participants will be given a written informed consent form. The researcher will protect privacy for this vulnerable group (undocumented students) by not using or recording participant's names. Therefore, the informed consent form will not ask for a signature. An explanation at the bottom of the form indicates that participation in the study (i.e., interview) signifies informed consent. This is a good faith effort to maintain participants' privacy. Confidentiality will be further protected as all interviews will be conducted in a private place. The researcher will take written notes during the interview which will be destroyed after the study is completed. All student participants will be given a code number and no record of actual names will be kept. Demographic variables will be broad enough so as not to identify a specific individual. The interview schedule does not ask for emotionally sensitive information and allows for participants to disclose within their own comfort level.

6. Potential benefits to be gained by the subjects: Participants will have the opportunity to tell their story (with a focus on personal strengths and successes) and to contribute to a greater understanding of their shared situation. The researcher may be in position to share useful information about potential resources to participants, and they will have the opportunity to advocate for themselves through participating in the study. They may be able to make useful suggestions for support services that the research can share with relevant university administrators for the benefit of this group at present and the future.

7. Compensation: The study will involve no compensation.

8. Risks in relation to the anticipated benefits: The benefits greatly outweigh risks since the study involves minimal risks. Privacy and confidentiality will be assured since no names will be collected or associated with the data. No written record will be maintained after the study is completed by the end of the spring 2011 semester. The study offers many potential benefits, such as contributing to a better understanding and awareness of the academic experiences of undocumented students. In addition, it explores the struggles and accomplishments of the participants, and their academic and social potential for success. It may produce valuable information that the University can use to enhance support services for these students.

9. Sites/agencies to be used: Participants will include students and selected faculty, administrators, and staff at Texas State. There is no outside approval required.

10. Relationship of the proposal to the program or work: This study is proposed in conjunction with the researcher's University Honors Program (UHP) thesis. Ms. Gomez has been in the UHP since fall of 2007 and has completed most of the requirements that will allow her to graduate with Honors, except completing the thesis. She anticipates graduating in May 2011. The supervising professor is Dr. Catherine Hawkins, a Professor of Social Work and also an UHP Instructor.

11. Approval: The thesis application for the study has been approved by the Honors Director and is attached.

12. Approval by another IRB: Not relevant

13. Access to results: Qualitative data in the form of hand-written notes will be held secure in Dr. Hawkins' office. Notes will have no names or specific identifiable information on them; they will have a numerical code. The results of the study will be written into a formal thesis that will be submitted to the University Honors Program Director, Dr. Heather Galloway, and available through the Texas State Library.