

Permission to Take Part in a Human Research Study



University at Buffalo Institutional Review Board (UBIRB)

Office of Research Compliance | Clinical and Translational Research Center Room 5018
875 Ellicott St. | Buffalo, NY 14203
UB Federalwide Assurance ID#: FWA00008824

Adult Consent to Participate in a Research Study

Title of research study: Evaluating the efficacy of a subgoal labelling textbook for introductory programming

Version Date: March 25, 2025

Investigator: Adrienne Decker

Key Information: The following is a short summary of this study to help you decide whether or not to be a part of this study. More detailed information is listed later on in this form.

Why am I being invited to take part in a research study?

You are being invited to take part in a research study because you are a university student in their first year in computer science or computer engineering or a non-major with little programming experience.

What should I know about a research study?

- Someone will explain this research study to you.
- Whether or not you take part is up to you.
- You can choose not to take part.
- You can agree to take part and later change your mind.
- Your decision will not be held against you.
- You can ask all the questions you want before you decide.

Why is this research being done?

This research is investigating how effective online textbook and associated activities is for learning introductory programming concepts in Java or Python.

How long will the research last and what will I need to do?

Each session will take approximately 1 hour of in-person or concurrent virtual time to complete. More information can be found under ***“What happens if I participate in this study?”***

Is there any way being in this study could be bad for me?

We do not anticipate any risks to you for participating in this research apart from a potential loss of confidentiality.

More detailed information about the risks of this study can be found under ***“Is there any way being in this study could be bad for me? (Detailed Risks)”***

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Will being in this study help me in any way?

There are no benefits to you from your taking part in this research. We cannot promise any benefits to others from your taking part in this research. However, possible benefits to others include improved future collegiate computer science curricula.

What happens if I do not want to be in this research?

Participation in research is completely voluntary. You may choose not to enroll in this study.

Your alternative to participating in this research study is to not participate.

Detailed Information: The following is more detailed information about this study in addition to the information listed above.

Who can I talk to?

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints, or think the research has hurt you, talk to the research team at adrienne@buffalo.edu or snmackay@buffalo.edu. You may also contact the research participant advocate at 716-888-4845 or researchadvocate@buffalo.edu.

This research has been reviewed and approved by an Institutional Review Board (“IRB”). An IRB is a committee that provides ethical and regulatory oversight of research that involves human subjects. You may talk to them at (716) 888-4888 or email ub-irb@buffalo.edu if:

- You have questions about your rights as a participant in this research
- Your questions, concerns, or complaints are not being answered by the research team.
- You cannot reach the research team.
- You want to talk to someone besides the research team.
- You want to get information or provide input about this research.

How many people will be studied?

We expect about 90 people to complete this study.

What happens if I say yes, I want to be in this research?

You will reach out to investigator Sean Mackay (snmackay@buffalo.edu) to set up a time for a one-on-one session. You will pick the modality of in-person or Zoom. You will attend the session and complete some programming exercises and answer questions about your experience with those exercises. Your session will be recorded.

What happens if I say yes, but I change my mind later?

You can leave the survey before completing it at any time and this will be not recorded or held against you. You can then choose to complete it in the future if you wish as well.

If you decide to leave the survey after having completed it, simply contact either adrienne@buffalo.edu or snmackay@buffalo.edu to have your record removed. This will also not be held against you in any capacity and you will have the ability to complete the survey again in the future.

Is there any way being in this study could be bad for me? (Detailed Risks)

The main risk is a potential for the loss of confidentiality. We will not collect or share your personally identifiable information with anyone, other than your email address should you wish to provide it. Data

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will be kept only in anonymized form for research purposes. In addition, only aggregated results will be reported outside of the research team.

There is the potential for minor discomfort in answering these questions. There may also be some unknown risks that are currently unforeseeable.

What happens to the information collected for the research?

Your answers to the programming questions and your responses to the interview questions will be stored anonymously in an environment secured by the University at Buffalo. No individual records, answers, or results will be released, only aggregate and statistical findings as part of a larger publication or study. The email you provided for setting up the interview and receiving the gift card will be destroyed after the payment has been processed.

What else do I need to know?

Who is paying for this research?

This research is being funded by the National Science Foundation grant no. 2110156.

Will I get paid for my participation in this research?

If you participate in a 1-hour session and provide your email address you will receive a \$100 gift card as compensation for your time.

You will be asked for your consent to participating in this research during your 1-hour session.