



Consent Form

Welcome to the survey on **Attitudes towards the Use of Algorithms in Educational Environments**. Before taking part in this study, please read the consent form below and click on the "I Agree" button at the bottom of the page if you understand the statements and freely consent to participate in the study.

This research involves a web-based study focused on the attitudes of university students. The study is being conducted by Federico Ferrero of The University of Texas at Dallas, and it has been designated in the framework of Survey Research class (EPPS 7386) delivered by Dr. Karl Ho. No deception is involved, and the study involves no more than minimal risk to participants (i.e., the level of risk encountered in daily life). Participation in the study typically takes about 15 minutes and is strictly confidential. Participants will be asked to answer questions related to their attitudes and opinions about the use of algorithms to make decisions in educational settings, etc. All responses are treated as confidential, and in no case will responses from individual participants be identified. Rather, all data will be pooled and published in aggregate form only. Participation is voluntary, refusal to take part in the study involves no penalty or loss of benefits to which participants are otherwise entitled, and participants may withdraw from the study at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which they are otherwise entitled.

If participants have further questions about this study, they may contact Federico Ferrero at federico.ferrero@utdallas.edu. Participants who want more information about their rights as a participant or who want to report a research related concern may contact The University of Texas at Dallas Office of Research Integrity and Outreach at (972) 883-4579.

If you are 18 years of age or older, understand the statements above, and freely consent to participate in the study, click on the "I Agree" button to begin the survey.

- ☐ I Agree
☐ I do not agree

Initial Question

New developments in Artificial Intelligence have led universities to use predictive computer algorithms. How much have you heard, read, or thought about this idea before today?

- ☐ None at all
- ☐ A little
- ☐ A moderate amount
- ☐ A lot
- ☐ A great deal

Situation 1

Situation 1

Imagine that your university is considering using a predictive computer algorithm to make decisions. The new predictive algorithm makes **automatic recommendations to instructors and administrators about which students may be at risk for dropping out**. The university members hopes that this information will help them decide which student may be most in need of support and intervention.

What are your general feelings about the university's use of this predictive algorithm?

Please rate your feelings by choosing a number from the range below. The range goes from 0 for "Negative feelings" to 10 for "Positive feelings". If your attitude is neutral, choose 5.

Negative feelings Positive feelings

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐

To what extent would you trust the decisions made by this predictive algorithm?

Low trust High trust

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐

To what extent do you believe that the use of this predictive algorithm will increase or decrease the quality of university services?

Decrease quality
0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ Increase quality

Situation 2

Situation 2

Finally, the new predictive algorithm that makes automatic recommendations to instructors and administrators about which students may be at risk of dropping has been implemented at your university.

A few months later, an investigation pointed out that **students and community members do not have much knowledge about how the predictive algorithm works.**

Considering now this situation, what are your general feelings about the use of this predictive algorithm by the university?

Negative feelings
0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ Positive feelings

To what extent would you trust the decisions made by this predictive algorithm?

Low trust
0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ High trust

Situation 3

Situation 3

Consider again the new predictive algorithm that makes automatic recommendations to instructors and administrators about which students may be at risk of dropping out.

Notice now that a few months after its implementation, another investigation indicated that **the privacy of student data has not been fully preserved**.

What are your general feelings about the use of this predictive algorithm by the university?

Negative feelings Positive feelings
0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐

To what extent would you trust the decisions made by this predictive algorithm?

Low trust High trust
0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐

Situation 4

Situation 4

Now, let's think about a different type of algorithm.

Imagine that your university is considering using a predictive computer algorithm that **automatically selects students who get scholarships and fellowships**. By using it, the decisions of who obtain grants would be solely made by the machine based on the data provided by the applicants. This algorithm would **completely replace human decision-makers** and the discretion they use to make their decisions.

Considering this information, what are your general feelings about the use of this predictive algorithm by the university?

Negative feelings Positive feelings
0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐

To what extent would you trust the decisions made by this algorithm?

Low trust High trust

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐

To what extent do you believe that the use of this algorithm will increase or decrease the quality of university services?

Decrease quality Increase quality

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐

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More generally, do you think that the eventual university's use of predictive algorithms would have a positive impact on you personally, a negative impact, or no impact either way?

- ☐ Extremely negative
- ☐ Somewhat negative
- ☐ Neither positive nor negative
- ☐ Somewhat positive
- ☐ Extremely positive

Final questions

In what year were you born?

Please, type the year in the box below.

What is your gender?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Non-binary / third gender
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican, or an Independent?

- ☐ Democrat
- ☐ Republican
- ☐ Independent

What is your current employment status?

- ☐ Employee for salary (full time)
- ☐ Employee for salary (part time)
- ☐ Self-employee
- ☐ Out of work and looking for
- ☐ Out of work but not currently looking for work
- ☐ Unable for work

Thinking back over the last year, what was your family's annual income?

- ☐ Less than \$10,000
- ☐ \$10,000 - \$19,999
- ☐ \$20,000 - \$29,999
- ☐ \$30,000 - \$39,999
- ☐ \$40,000 - \$49,999
- ☐ \$50,000 - \$59,999
- ☐ \$60,000 - \$69,999
- ☐ \$70,000 - \$79,999
- ☐ \$80,000 - \$89,999
- ☐ \$90,000 - \$99,999
- ☐ \$100,000 - \$149,999
- ☐ More than \$150,000

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