Interview Packet

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Interviewer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Participant ID: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Project Description and Goals

Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_\_ and my team and I are doing a project for the course CSCI 5115 where we are required to implement a user interface for a University of Minnesota course reviewing interface. This would be an interface where we would be able to look up and review the background of courses offered by the University of Minnesota. Compared to Rate My Professor, this application will put an emphasis on features of specific courses instead of the professors. We are currently carrying out user research in order to gauge both the strengths and weaknesses related to the project in order to build the platform which satisfies the user’s needs. This interview would be a part of that user research and it will take approximately 15-30 minutes. It would be greatly appreciated if you could answer these questions honestly and to the best of your ability.

# Read and Ask for Consent

You are invited to be in a class project investigating the implementation of a course review interface. We ask that you read this form and ask any questions you may have before agreeing to take part. This class project is being conducted by: Nicole Pupp, Hazel Dunn, Kimney Nguyen, Matthew Chandra, and Seraphina Yong in CSCI 5115, University of Minnesota.

**Procedures:**

You will be participating in a (30-45) minute interview. The researcher will be taking notes, with no identifying information being recorded. We would like to record our conversation, audio only, to make transcription easier after the interview. If you are not comfortable with audio being recorded, please inform us at this time.

**Risks and Benefits of Being in the Study:**

There are minimal risks associated with this study.

The benefit of this study is your responses being used to create a better interface for student peers to share information about course selection.

**Compensation:**

There is no compensation for participating in this study.

**Confidentiality:**

We will not collect any information that will make it possible to trace your participation back to you and will not share your participation with anybody outside of the student project team, unless you consent otherwise. We will keep your participation private to the extent allowable by law.

**Voluntary Nature of Project Participation:**

Participation in this project is voluntary. Your decision whether or not to participate will not affect your current or future relations with the University of Minnesota. If you decide to participate, you are free to not answer any question or withdraw at any time without affecting those relationships.

**Contacts and Questions:**

The students conducting this project are: Nicole Pupp, Hazel Dunn, Kimney Nguyen, Matthew Chandra, and Seraphina Yong. The faculty member supervising this class project is: Dr. Loren Terveen. You may ask any questions you have to us (the project members) at this time. If you have questions later, you are encouraged to contact him at Keller Hall (Office 5-211), 612 624-8310, [terveeen@umn.edu](mailto:terveeen@umn.edu).

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# Interview

**CONSENT GIVEN?** YES NO

**CONFIRM VOICE RECORDING OK AND COLLECT SIGNED CONSENT FORM**

**Background Questions**

1. What year of school are you in? (Undergrad/Grad, Program year)
2. What’s your major?
3. How many classes (on average) do you usually take in a semester?

3.1 Does this number vary by what year you are in?

1. What grade/GPA do you aim to achieve during the course of the semester?

**Usage/Experience Questions**

1. When selecting classes, what sort of information do you find helpful to know about the class before registering? What process do you go through when looking to register for classes?  
    **Possible follow-up questions:**

What things do you look up/google/research when you are looking for classes?

What workload factors do you care about when registering?  
(e.g. workload time distribution, overall workload time amount)

How do you choose classes to plan out completing your program? List strategies (e.g. doing more classes in the beginning of program)

What course-based information would you find helpful (apart from syllabus)?

Do you care about the student composition of a class? (e.g. ratio of students in program/students in year)

1. What makes you like/dislike a class?  
    **Examples:**

Intellectual stimulation through discussion (nature of discussion)

Discussion heavy vs. lecture heavy vs. project based (i.e. hands-on, labs)

How much you’re expected to learn by yourself

How closely the class follows the textbook

1. Which do you find more effective in getting information about a class:
   1. a sentence-based review by students who have taken the course or
   2. a number rating that rates the course from 0.0 to 5.0

**Why?**

1. Do other people’s opinions of a class affect your choice to take a class or not? Does it matter if you do/do not know them?
2. Would you or have you had to take a class outside of your comfort zone? What factors do you consider in this case?

5.1 What would convince you to take a class out of your comfort zone?

1. Can you describe a situation where you found yourself in a class that was much different than you expected before signing up for it?

6.1 If so, how was it different / what information would you have found helpful to have before signing up?

1. If you have dropped a class, can you explain why you dropped it?

7.1 If it was related to your expectations of the class, please explain.

1. Have you ever heard about or used external websites that review class instructors (e.g. ratemyprofessor.com)?

8.1 If yes, do you find such websites useful? If not, why?

1. Have you ever reviewed a course?

9.1 **(Responded YES)**

* What made you decide to review it?
* What platform did you use to share your opinion? Why?
  + What was your experience with that platform (likes/dislikes)
* What kind of information did you share in the review? Why?

9.2 **(Responded NO)**

* What prevents you from writing course reviews?
* In what situation do you think you would write a course review?
  + What kind of information do you think you might share?

1. Have you ever publicly shared information or material from a course?  
   (e.g. syllabus, project examples, reading material, etc.) ← only mention these if they don’t know how to answer

10.1 If yes, what kind of information did you share? Why?

syllabus

10.2 If no, can you imagine any situations in which you might want to do so?

What kind of information might you want to share in such a case?

**Closing**

1. Would you like to go over any of the questions we asked?
2. Are there any other experiences, opinions, or thoughts you would like to share about your course-finding/reviewing experience?

**Reconfirm Consent**

“At​ ​the​ ​close​ ​of​ ​this​ ​interview,​ ​I​ ​want​ ​to​ ​thank​ ​you​ ​for​ ​your​ ​participation.​ ​I​ ​would​ ​like​ ​to​ ​reconfirm your​ ​consent​ ​and​ ​ask​ ​you​ ​if​ ​you’re​ ​comfortable​ ​with​ ​letting​ ​us​ ​use​ ​what​ ​we​ ​talked​ ​about​ ​today​ ​in our​ ​research?​ ​As​ ​a​ ​reminder,​ ​your​ ​data​ ​will​ ​be​ ​anonymous,​ ​and​ ​you​ ​can​ ​withdraw​ ​your participation​ ​at​ ​any​ ​time​ ​by​ ​emailing​ ​\_\_\_\_\_”

**CONSENT GIVEN?** YES NO