



## CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

### *MOOC Collaborative Assessment and Feedback Engine (M-CAFE)*

#### **Introduction**

You are being invited to participate in this study because you are enrolled in the UC Berkeley EdX MOOC CS169.1x course: Engineering Software as a Service.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this study is to implement and evaluate the effectiveness of M-CAFE (<http://opinion.berkeley.edu/m-cafe-2/>), a social media technology that seeks to improve the quality of MOOCs by allowing students to evaluate aspects of the course and suggest ideas for how the course can be enhanced.

#### **Procedures**

If you agree to be in this study, you will be asked to visit M-CAFE once per week to evaluate the course and suggest ideas for how the course can be enhanced.

- Participants first grade the course (from A+ to F) on issues relating to course technical difficulty, usefulness of course to career, effectiveness of course assignments, and student enthusiasm and performance in the course.
- After assessing the course, participants enter into a discussion forum where they provide a suggestion for how the course can be enhanced and evaluate the importance of other students' suggestions.

**Study time:** Study participation will take a total of 5 minutes per week.

**Study location:** All study procedures will take place online at <http://opinion.berkeley.edu/m-cafe-2/>

#### **Benefits**

There is no direct benefit to you anticipated from participating in this study. However, it is hoped that the information gained from the study will help in the development of social media technologies to improve the quality of MOOCs.

#### **Risks/Discomforts**

- There are no known risks or discomforts associated with study procedures. There are no physical risks. The names of participants will not be collected. Only email addresses (no passwords) will be collected on secure Linux servers at UC Berkeley. Email addresses will never be viewable by other participants. In discussion forums, visitors will be identified by a number correlating to the time they entered the system (e.g., the first visitor to the website will be referred to as Participant #1). Student responses on M-CAFE will in no way impact their grade(s) in the course.

- You are free to decline to answer any questions you do not wish to or to stop using M-CAFE at any time.

### **Confidentiality**

As with all research, there is a chance that confidentiality could be compromised; however, we are taking precautions to minimize this risk.

Only email addresses (no passwords) will be collected and stored on secure Linux servers at UC Berkeley. Email addresses will not be shared with any third parties nor are they shared at any time on the website with other participants.

To minimize risks to confidentiality, we store all data collected on M-CAFE on password-protected, encrypted computers accessible only by the M-CAFE principal investigator and research personnel.

Your study data will be handled as confidentially as possible. If results of this study are published or presented, individual names and other personally identifiable information will not be used.

***Retaining research records:*** When the research is completed, the study records may be saved for use in future research done by myself or others. The study information will be retained for up to 5 years after the study is over. The same measures described above will be taken to protect confidentiality of this study data.

### **Compensation**

You will not be paid for taking part in this study.

### **Rights**

***Participation in research is completely voluntary.***

You have the right to decline to participate or to withdraw at any point in this study without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

### **Questions**

If you have any questions or concerns about this study, you may contact Dr. Brandie Nonnecke at [nonnecke@berkeley.edu](mailto:nonnecke@berkeley.edu).

If you have any questions or concerns about your rights and treatment as a research subject, you may contact the office of UC Berkeley's Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects, at 510-642-7461 or [subjects@berkeley.edu](mailto:subjects@berkeley.edu).

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