

# TEACHERS COLLEGE

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

525 West 120<sup>th</sup> St. New York, NY 10027  
212-678-3000 | www.tc.columbia.edu

## INFORMED CONSENT

**Protocol Title:** Postsecondary Teaching with Technology Collaborative: Rapid Cycle Experiments

**Principal Researcher:** Dr. Nicole Edgecombe, Ph.D.

(212) 678-3151, nde8@tc.columbia.edu

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### **INTRODUCTION**

You are invited to participate in this research study focused on how postsecondary institutions can use technology to support student learning and success. You may qualify to take part in this research study because of your enrollment in an online Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) course. Approximately 6,600 students will participate in this study. The U.S. Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences has provided funding for this study.

### **WHY IS THIS STUDY BEING DONE?**

This study is being done to investigate postsecondary policies and practices related to instruction in online courses in STEM disciplines. The Community College Research Center and SRI Education are conducting this multi-semester study to learn how institutions and instructors can use educational technology and instructional strategies to bolster students' skills for managing their own learning (i.e., time management, goal-setting, and reflection). Findings will inform the eventual development of an instructional model for teaching self-directed learning skills in online STEM courses.

### **WHAT WILL I BE ASKED TO DO IF I AGREE TO TAKE PART IN THIS STUDY?**

If you decide to participate, you will be invited to complete an online survey. The survey will ask you to share your experience of taking an online STEM course, your perceptions of SDL instructional practices and concepts, and how you manage your time and learning in the course.

The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. You may be asked to participate in a second follow-up survey later in the term, which will also take about 10 minutes to complete.

This study is voluntary. You do not need to answer any question that might make you uncomfortable. You can exit this study at any time without penalty. Participating or not participating in the study will have no impact on your standing at your institution or in the course.

### **WHAT POSSIBLE RISKS OR DISCOMFORTS CAN I EXPECT FROM TAKING PART IN THIS STUDY?**

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The risks associated with this study are minimal; however, there are some risks to consider. You will be asked to take time out of your day to participate. You may find that some questions cause discomfort, particularly if you have critiques of your institution's policies and practices. There is a risk of a breach of confidentiality. The research team has taken steps to minimize this risk (see Protection of Your Confidentiality).

## **WHAT POSSIBLE BENEFITS CAN I EXPECT FROM TAKING PART IN THIS STUDY?**

There is no direct benefit to you for participating in this study, although some participants may find it interesting or constructive to talk about policies and practices related to student success in online STEM courses. The goal of the study is to inform improvements in instruction and student success in higher education.

## **WILL I BE PAID FOR BEING IN THIS STUDY?**

Following the second survey administration, you will be compensated with one \$20 electronic gift card for completing both the first and second administration of the survey.

## **WHEN IS THE STUDY OVER? CAN I LEAVE THE STUDY BEFORE IT ENDS?**

The study is over when you have completed both administrations of the survey. However, you can leave the study at any time even if you have not finished.

## **PROTECTION OF YOUR CONFIDENTIALITY**

Responses to the survey will be used only for research purposes and will be kept confidential. Your individual responses will not be shared with your instructor.

Any information that is gathered as part of this study and that can be used to identify you will remain private within SRI and CCRC. SRI and CCRC will de-identify your data, which means your name and information that could identify you will be removed from your research data and stored securely within SRI. In any sort of report we might publish, we will not include any information that will make it possible to identify you or any other participants. We will store copies of de-identified data in a secure data repository or archive for at least ten years. Before being made available to other researchers, the data will be reviewed to make sure it cannot be used to identify you. We or other researchers may use the information you provide for future research studies. We will not ask for your additional informed consent for these studies.

## **HOW WILL THE RESULTS BE USED?**

The results of this study will be published in journals or reports and presented at academic conferences. Your name or any identifying information about you will not be published. The

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reports prepared for this study will summarize findings across the sample and will not associate responses with specific individuals. We will also share aggregate results at the institution and course-section level with administrators at participating institutions and instructors participating in the study. Other researchers using de-identified study data for legitimate research purposes may also publish reports in similar style.

### **WHO CAN ANSWER MY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS STUDY?**

If you have any questions about taking part in this research study, you should contact Dr. Nicole Edgecombe at (212) 678-3151 or [nde8@tc.columbia.edu](mailto:nde8@tc.columbia.edu).

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If you have questions or concerns about your rights as a research subject, you should contact the Institutional Review Board (IRB) (the human research ethics committee) at 212-678-4105 or email [IRB@tc.edu](mailto:IRB@tc.edu) or you can write to the IRB at Teachers College, Columbia University, 525 W. 120<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10027, Box 151. The IRB is the committee that oversees human research protection for Teachers College, Columbia University.

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### **PARTICIPANT'S RIGHTS**

- I have read the Informed Consent Form and have been offered the opportunity to discuss the form with the researcher.
- I have had ample opportunity to ask questions about the purposes, procedures, risks and benefits regarding this research study.
- I understand that my participation is voluntary. I may refuse to participate or withdraw participation at any time without penalty.
- If, during the course of the study, significant new information that has been developed becomes available which may relate to my willingness to continue my participation, the researcher will provide this information to me.
- Any information derived from the research study that personally identifies me will not be voluntarily released or disclosed without my separate consent, except as specifically required by law.
- Identifiers may be removed from the data. De-identifiable data may be used for future research studies by the study researchers or other approved external researchers.
- I should receive a copy of the Informed Consent Form document.

**By checking the “I agree” box and typing your name, you are electronically signing this consent form to participate in this study. You affirm that an electronic signature has the same effect as a written signature. You also confirm that you are 18 years or older.**

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**To agree, check the “I agree” box and type in your name. If you do not wish to participate in this study, close out of this browser window.**

*[ check box ] [ participant full name ]*