

GENERAL INFORMED CONSENT FORM

You are invited to participate in a research project being conducted by MacKenzie Stetzer, a faculty member in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Maine. The purpose of the research is to improve student learning in science courses.

What Will You Be Asked to Do?

You are being asked to allow the investigators of this study to have access to and use data about your performance in this course, and about you as a student. These data could include: answers to concept and perception of the discipline surveys administered as a normal part of the course; test scores; responses to exam, clicker, and homework questions; grades; copies of written coursework; information about your major and enrollment status; other courses you take after this course; SAT scores; and demographic information. The information gathered will be used strictly for scholarly purposes (e.g. to improve our understanding of how to effectively implement curricular innovations to improve student learning and attitudes in University of Maine Biology courses, and to improve our understanding of which students benefit from course modifications, and in what ways). You will be asked to do many of the above activities as part of the course for credit and you will have to complete them to fulfill course requirements. Here we are asking your permission to use the data for scholarly purposes. In addition, we are asking your permission to use your demographic, grade, SAT information, major, and future course enrollment as part of a statistical model to determine the impacts of course reforms.

Risks

The potential risks of participating in this study are minimal. Your participation in this project is strictly voluntary. It has no impact on your grade and you have the right to withdraw at any time. You may also refuse to allow us to include your demographic data or information about you in statistical modeling. If course points are associated with any of the surveys, you will receive the points for participation by returning the survey with just your name and ID number, if you have chosen not to participate. All handwritten notes will be kept in a locked filing cabinet. Data from this study will be kept indefinitely. **Your individual privacy will be maintained in all published material resulting from this study as well as in presentations of study results to professional audiences.** Demographic data, grades, SAT scores, and information about your major and future courses, will be obtained from the Office of Student Records and the Office of Institutional Research, and will be de-identified by those offices before it becomes part of the research.

Benefits

- There is no direct benefit to you for participating.
- Findings from this study will be useful for informing educators about how to help students succeed in science courses.

Confidentiality

We will ask you for identifying information when you complete surveys, and your grades and other coursework will be collected with your information in place. Before analysis and storage, your name and student ID will be replaced by a 10-digit random number and an encrypted key will be kept on a secure server. Demographic data, SAT scores and course grades, and course and enrollment status, will be collected from the Office of Student Records and Office of Institutional Research, but will be de-identified by those offices before becoming part of the research. None of the results will be shared with your instructor until the course is over. At that point, the

information will be presented in an anonymous way. Data from this study and any encrypted keys, may be kept indefinitely.

Voluntary

Participation is voluntary. If you choose not to take part in this study, please contact Chrissy Siddons at christina.siddons@maine.edu . Your instructor will not be informed about your decision to be excluded from the study.

Contact Information

If you have any questions about this study, please contact: mackenzie.stetzer@maine.edu, 207-581-1033 or christina.siddons@maine.edu, 207-581-4677. If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact the Office of Research Compliance, University of Maine at 207-581-2657 (or e-mail umric@maine.edu).