

Consent for Research Participation

Research Study Title: How do students define and attain success in Biology graduate programs?

Researcher(s): Maryrose Weatherton, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Dr. Elisabeth Schussler, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

We are asking you to be in this research study because you are a graduate student in a biology program in the United States. You must be age 18 or older to participate in the study. The information in this consent form is to help you decide if you want to be in this research study. Please take your time reading this form and contact the researcher(s) to ask questions if there is anything you do not understand.

Why is the research being done?

The purpose of the research study is to explore graduate students' definitions of success in relation to their graduate program and explore what resources they use to achieve this success. Furthermore, the purpose of this study is to explore how factors like a person's age, previous experiences, and other personal characteristics may impact the resources they choose to use.

What will I do in this study?

If you agree to be in this study, you will complete an online survey. The survey includes questions about which resources you use, how useful you think they are, and how often you use them and should take you about 15-20 minutes to complete. You can skip questions that you do not want to answer.

At the end of the survey, you will be asked if you would like to participate in a follow-up interview, where a researcher will ask you about your survey answers.

Can I say "No"?

Being in this study is up to you. You can stop up until you submit the survey. After you submit the survey, we cannot remove your responses because we will not know which responses came from you. Either way, your decision won't affect your grades, your relationship with your instructors, or standing with your graduate program.

Are there any risks to me?

Some of the survey questions are personal in nature and may make you feel uncomfortable. We don't know of any risks to you from being in the study that are greater than the risks you encounter in everyday life.

Are there any benefits to me?

We do not expect you to benefit from being in this study. Your participation may help us to learn more about graduate students' definitions of success in relation to their graduate program. We hope the knowledge gained from this study will benefit others in the future.

What will happen with the information collected for this study?

If you choose not to participate in the follow-up interview, then the survey will be anonymous, and no one will be able to link your responses back to you. Your responses to the survey will not be linked to your computer, email address or other electronic identifiers.

However, if you choose to participate in the follow-up interview, your responses and your contact information will be temporarily linked, until your interview is completed. After that, any linking information will be destroyed and your interview responses will be identified only by a pseudonym, not your real name.

Information provided in this survey can only be kept as secure as any other online communication. Information collected for this study will be published and possibly presented at scientific meetings.

Who can answer my questions about this research study?

If you have questions or concerns about this study, or have experienced a research related problem or injury, contact the researchers:

Maryrose Weatherton

Mweath13@vols.utk.edu

847-571-2802

Dr. Elisabeth Schussler

eschussl@utk.edu

For questions or concerns about your rights or to speak with someone other than the research team about the study, please contact:

Institutional Review Board
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
1534 White Avenue
Blount Hall, Room 408
Knoxville, TN 37996-1529
Phone: 865-974-7697
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Statement of Consent

I have read this form, been given the chance to ask questions and have my questions answered. If I have more questions, I have been told who to contact. By clicking the "I Agree" button below, I am agreeing to be in this study. I can print or save a copy of this consent information for future reference. If I do not want to be in this study, I can close my internet browser.