
University of Washington

CONSENT FORM

CAMPUS CLIMATE SURVEY

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Investigator's Statement:

PURPOSE AND BENEFITS

The general purpose of this research activity is to examine student perceptions of the campus climate. This will include perceptions of the academic and social environment, ethnic diversity on campus, personal experiences, and general life satisfaction. The results are intended to help us understand how aspects of the university and social environment affect student satisfaction, academic adjustment, and retention in college.

PROCEDURES

Participation in the study involves completing a questionnaire that will take approximately 30 minutes to fill out. You will be asked to provide some demographic and background information, including your student number. You will also be asked to respond to a variety of statements and questions about social issues, public policy, interpersonal relationships, cultural experiences, and emotional concerns. You are free not to answer any questions you do not wish to answer.

Examples of the types of questions you will encounter include:

"To what extent do you feel you belong in the university community?"

"To what extent do you agree or disagree that there are interracial tensions in the classroom?"

"How often, during the past month, have you felt so down in the dumps that nothing could cheer you up?"

"While attending the U.W. how would you describe your financial situation?"

In order to track changes that may occur through the course of your education at the University of Washington, we will be asking you to complete questionnaire for the following four years or until you graduate from the University of Washington, whichever is sooner. By signing this consent form, you give us permission to use your student number to contact you every year at the phone number and address you list with the Registrar's Office. You also give us permission to use your student number to obtain information on your grades, how long it takes you to graduate, and other related information.

Participation in this research project is completely voluntary and you may withdraw from the study at any time.

If you elect to complete the questionnaire and return it by the deadline, you will be entered into a lottery for six cash prizes. The lottery will be held once during this first year of the study. There are five \$100 prizes and one \$1,000 prize. The questionnaire will be mailed to 5,500 students. Your individual chance of winning will depend on how many students return the questionnaire by the deadline.

RISKS, STRESS, OR DISCOMFORT

There are minimal risks associated with your participation in this research study. Some of the survey questions ask about personal matters and behaviors that may be private and thus cause some mild discomfort. The other risk is a potential violation of confidentiality, however, extensive procedures are in place to reduce this possibility. If you experience any distress or have any questions or concerns, you may contact the principal investigator at the phone number above.

OTHER INFORMATION

All the information you provide will be confidential. Only the people directly involved in the research project will have access to your completed questionnaire. To help maintain confidentiality, upon receipt of your questionnaire, your name and contact information for the lottery entry will be detached and stored separately from your responses on the questionnaire. All information from the study will be kept in a locked file in the investigator's office and will not be released to any other source. The data will be kept in identifiable form for no more than ten years.

Ana Mari Cauce, Investigator

Date

Phyllis Sanchez, Co-Investigator

Date

Participant's Statement:

The study described above has been explained to me. I voluntarily consent to participate in this activity. I have had the opportunity to ask questions. I understand that future questions I may have about the research or about my rights as a subject will be answered by the investigator listed above.

Participant's Signature _____

Date _____