



LAMAR UNIVERSITY®

INFORMED CONSENT

Online Doctoral Persistence: Students' Perceptions of Dissertation Success Factors

Purpose of the Study

You are being asked to participate in a research study about online doctoral students' dissertation completion in EdD programs in the United States. The purpose of this study is to identify success factors for online doctoral students that may lead to improved student satisfaction, retention, and successful dissertation completion. If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to:

- Reflect on your experience with your dissertation during your online EdD program
- Be interviewed via online web conferencing software, which should take approximately 60 minutes
- You will be asked a series of open-ended questions and may decline to answer any of the questions at any time
- Interviews will be recorded and transcribed

The study will include one interview session, time and date TBD as mutually agreed upon with the participant and researcher. Follow up interviews will only be scheduled if there is any information that needs to be clarified.

Risks

This is a minimal risk research study. That means that the risks of participating are no more likely or serious than those you encounter in everyday activities. The foreseeable risks or discomforts include potentially feeling uncomfortable responding openly and honestly to one or more of the interview questions. You may opt not to answer any of the interview questions at any time. The interview is entirely voluntary and you can withdraw from the study at any time, without any penalty.

Benefits

There is no compensation to participate in this study; however, benefits of participation may include a contribution to scholarly research and the benefit of new insights into student satisfaction, retention, and graduation rates for online doctoral programs. More broadly, this study may help researchers learn more about Online Doctoral Persistence: Students' Perceptions of Dissertation Success Factors, and may help future people with similar interests or issues.

Confidentiality

The researcher will make every effort to ensure that the information you provide as part of this study remains confidential. Your information will be collected through Video/Audio Interviews. The recordings and any written documents will be kept private and confidential. Your name will not appear on survey forms. Each participant will receive a pseudonym. Each participant will only be identifiable as this pseudonym once the study begins. This will ensure responses are completely confidential, and no individual names or institutions will be revealed during the course of this study. All data will be maintained on a password-protected computer by the investigator. Three (3) years after the researcher's dissertation study is completed the file will be deleted.

This informed consent form will be kept for three (3) years after the study as required by federal law and then it will be destroyed. Your identity will not be revealed in any publications, presentations, or reports resulting from this research study.

Participation

Your participation in this research is completely voluntary. If you agree to participate now and change your mind later, you may withdraw at any time. If you choose to withdraw after we have already collected information about you, your interview responses will be deleted.

Any photograph or audio/video recordings will be stored securely and only the research team will have access to the photographs or recordings. The photographs and recordings will be kept for three (3) years after the study as required by federal law and then it will be destroyed.

Participant must initial one:

I agree to be photographed or be audio/video recorded.

I do not agree to be photographed or be audio/video recorded.

You will not receive any type of payment for participating in this study. There is no cost to you for participating in the study.

Contact

Prior, during, and after your participation you may contact the researcher by email or phone Jennifer Teal, jteal@lamar.edu, 916-524-2704. When asking questions about the research study please be sure to reference the researcher's name and study title.

For concerns with any part of this study, please contact the Lamar University Institutional Review Board at rspa@lamar.edu or 409-880-7670.

Signature

You have been informed about the title of the study, the purpose of the study, the study procedures, the benefits of the study, and possible risks. You have been given a copy of this consent form. You have been given the opportunity to ask questions before signing this form.

By signing this form, you voluntarily agree to participate in this study, but you are not waiving any of your legal rights.

Participant's Printed Name

Participant's Signature

Date

As part of the research team, I have explained the study title, study purpose, study procedures, benefits of the study, and possible risks involved with the research study.

Research Team Member Printed Name

Research Team Member Signature

Date