



DEGREE COMPLETION

Dear Study Participant,

Thank you for your interest in participating in our study on adult re-entry students returning to complete their degree. Before you decide to participate, it's important to understand the potential risks involved. While we have taken every precaution to minimize any potential harm, it's essential to acknowledge that participating in research, like any activity, carries inherent risks. These risks may include:

1. **Privacy Risks:** Despite our best efforts to protect your privacy, there is a small risk that your personal information could be unintentionally disclosed during the research process.
2. **Emotional Risks:** Engaging with academic coursework and participating in research activities may evoke emotional responses or stress. We encourage you to reach out for support if you encounter any difficulties.
3. **Time Commitment:** Participating in the research project may require some time commitment, including attending online workshops, completing reflective activities, and meeting with a degree completion advisor.
4. **Academic Performance:** While our goal is to support your academic success, we cannot guarantee specific outcomes. It's essential to approach participation with realistic expectations and an understanding of your personal academic goals.

By acknowledging these potential risks, you can make an informed decision about whether participation in our research project aligns with your personal and academic objectives.

As a participant in our research study, you have certain rights that are designed to protect your well-being, privacy, and autonomy. These rights include:

1. **Voluntary Participation:** Your participation in the research study is entirely voluntary. You have the right to choose whether or not to participate, and your decision will not affect

your access to any benefits or services. Your enrollment in courses at this or any other institution are not contingent upon participation.

2. **Informed Consent:** Before you decide to participate, you will be provided with detailed information about the purpose of the study, the procedures involved, any potential risks or benefits, and your rights as a participant. You have the right to ask questions and seek clarification before giving your consent to participate.
3. **Privacy and Confidentiality:** We are committed to protecting your privacy and confidentiality throughout the research process. Any personal information you provide will be kept strictly confidential and will only be used for research purposes. Your identity will be kept anonymous in any reports or publications resulting from the study.
4. **Right to Withdraw:** You have the right to withdraw from the research study at any time, for any reason, without penalty. Your decision to withdraw will not affect your eligibility for any services you have received.
5. **Access to Information:** You have the right to access information about the research study, including any findings or results that may be relevant to you. We will strive to provide you with timely and accurate information about the progress of the study and any outcomes that may impact you.
6. **Protection from Harm:** We are committed to minimizing any potential risks associated with participation in the research study. If you experience any discomfort, distress, or harm as a result of your participation, we will provide appropriate support and assistance.
7. **Respect and Dignity:** You have the right to be treated with respect, dignity, and fairness throughout the research process. We will strive to create a supportive and inclusive research environment that values your perspectives and experiences.

These rights are intended to ensure that your participation in the research study is conducted ethically, responsibly, and with your best interests in mind. If you have any questions or concerns about your rights as a participant, please don't hesitate to contact Jayme Richards at jaymerichards@ucmerced.edu. Your well-being and satisfaction are our top priorities and we are here to support you every step of the way.

Thank you for considering this invitation to contribute to our research efforts. We look forward to the possibility of working together towards your academic goals and advancing our understanding of adult reentry students.

Please indicate your agreement to participate by initialing this informed consent form.

Yes, I agree to participate in the study and understand that I may withdraw my consent at any time.

No, I do not agree to participate in the study.

Participant's Signature: _____

Provide an up-to-date cell phone number: _____

Preferred email address: _____

Receive text messages during the duration of the study. Standard text messaging and data rates may apply. Yes No

Please list all higher education courses you are currently taking. A copy of your class schedule must be included when you return this form.

Class Number	Term	School
<i>Example: ENGL 1C</i>	<i>Spring 2025</i>	<i>Modesto Junior College</i>