

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
Template: Informed Consent for a Research Study

You are being asked to take part in a research study. This study is called “Performance Analysis, Engineering Math Advancement Program (E-MAP)”. The study is being done by Drs. Karen Boykin, Jim Gleason, Sandy Wood, and Aaron Kuntz who are professors and professional staff at the University.

This study is being paid for by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

What is this study about?

This study is being done to find out if participation in the E-MAP helps with student retention and mathematics course grades.

Why is this study important--What good will the results do?

This knowledge is important/useful because it will help College of Engineering and Mathematics Department administrators and professors determine methods for helping students with retention and performance in pre-engineering mathematics. E-MAP student participant performance as a group is being compared with non E-MAP student performance as a group.

Why have I been asked to take part in this study?

You have been asked to be in this study because you are a non E-MAP College of Engineering student who has left the University. Your data is important to correctly analyze how non-EMAP students compare with E-MAP students “as a whole”.

How many people besides me will be in this study?

About (300) other people will be in this study.

What will I be asked to do in this study?

If you decide to be in this study, you will be asked to do these things:

Complete the attached survey questions: (1) Are you still in an engineering program? (2) If not, are you pursuing a degree in another Science, Technology, or Mathematics program, other than engineering? (3) Please tell us what other program you are pursuing.

How much time will I spend being in this study? 10 minutes.

Will I be paid for being in this study? You will not be paid for being in this study.

Will being in this study cost me anything?

There is no cost to you except for your time in completing the questionnaires.

Can the researcher take me out of this study?

To obtain a complete picture, your data is needed. However, the researcher may consider taking you out of this study if s/he feels that the data is not warranted.

What are the benefits (good things) that may happen to me if I am in this study?

There are no direct benefits to you from being in this study, other than potential for improved educational programs in engineering and mathematics that may be of benefit to you, your family, or friends in the future.

What are the benefits to scientists or society?

This study will help engineers and mathematicians learn how to help students become better prepared to enter science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

What are the risks (dangers or harm) to me if I am in this study?

No risks, danger, or harm exists for participating in this study.

How will my confidentiality (privacy) be protected? What will happen to the information the study keeps on me?

Protection includes the use of ID numbers on all study documents, limiting access to the investigators only, and destruction of raw data after it has been transcribed or entered on a database. Data is to be used without personal identifiers as data points only.

What are the alternatives to being in this study? Do I have other choices?

The alternative/other choice is not to participate.

What are my rights as a participant?

Taking part in this study is voluntary—it is your free choice. You may choose not to take part at all. If you start the study, you can stop at any time.

The University of Alabama Institutional Review Board (IRB) is the committee that protects the rights of people in research studies. The IRB may review study records from time to time to be sure that people in research studies are being treated fairly and that the study is being carried out as planned. In some studies federal government units or the study sponsor may also review study documents.

Who do I call if I have questions or problems?

If you have questions about the study right now, please ask them. If you have questions about the study later on, please call the investigator, Dr. Karen Boykin, at 205-348-4008. If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant you may contact Ms. Tanta Myles, The University of Alabama Research Compliance Officer, at (205)-348-5152.

Completion of the survey below implies consent to take part in this research study.

Student Survey
Performance Analysis: Engineering Math Advancement Program (E-MAP)
Instructions and Student Questionnaire
Please complete and return by email to kboykin@eng.ua.edu or fax: 205-348-9659

You have been selected as a student entering the College of Engineering at the University of Alabama between 2005 and 2007. We are asking students from your entering class to please complete the following questions:

1. After leaving the University of Alabama, did you enroll in another engineering program elsewhere?
Yes _____ No _____
2. Are you still in that engineering program, Yes: _____ No _____ ; Or did you graduate in engineering? Yes _____ No _____
3. If you are not in engineering, are you pursuing a degree in another Science, Technology or Mathematics program, other than engineering? Yes _____ No _____
4. Please tell us what other program you are pursuing: _____

We appreciate your time answering these questions. Your input is extremely important to helping improve engineering and mathematics education. For additional information about this survey, please see the attached Informed Consent for a Research Study. Information obtained will not be distributed by name, but as generic data points with no personal identifiers as part of an upcoming journal article about E-MAP performance.