

**University of Colorado  
Colorado Springs (UCCS)  
Consent to be a Research Subject**

**Title:** Validation of an updated version of the Statistical Anxiety Scale amongst American students across multiple learning platforms.

**Principal Investigator:** [REDACTED]

**Funding Source:** n/a

**Key Information**

Your consent is being requested to participate in a study but participation is voluntary. The purpose of this study to validate a new version of the Statistics Anxiety Scale (SAS) in North American students across multiple learning platforms. If you agree to participate, we will send you a link to participate in an online focus group. It is expected to last for about one hour. Participation is voluntary and you may leave the study at any time. The long-term goal of this study is to validate the Statistics Anxiety Scale for North American students. Although you as the participant will not reap any direct benefits, it will help instructors to better understand statistics anxiety among students. Loss of time and a loss of confidentiality are potential risks of being participants in this study.

**Introduction**

You are being asked to be in a research study. This form is designed to tell you everything you need to think about before you decide to consent (agree) to be in the study or not to be in the study. A member of the research team will describe this study to you and answer any questions. **It is entirely your choice. If you decide to take part, you can change your mind later on and withdraw from the research study.**

Before making your decision:

- Please carefully read this form or have it read to you.
- Please ask questions about anything that is not clear.

Feel free to take your time thinking about whether you would like to participate. By signing this form, you will not give up any legal rights.

**Study Overview**

If you agree to participate, we will send you a link to participate in an online focus group using the nominal group technique. In this process you will be asked to contribute suggestions for rewording each survey item on the statistics anxiety scale. We will discuss these revised items and rank order them for clarity, with the goal of coming to consensus on the revised survey items. The results of this study will help future statistics instructors to better understand and help to alleviate student's anxiety surrounding statistics courses. We anticipate this focus group lasting approximately one hour

**Procedures**

You are being asked to be in this research study because you are a faculty member with experience in statistics instruction, or that of a similar discipline. We will conduct the interview online (e.g., using Microsoft teams or Zoom) and it should take approximately one hour, using the nominal group technique. In this process you will be asked to contribute suggestions for rewording each survey item on the statistics anxiety scale. We will discuss these revised items

and rank order them for clarity, with the goal of coming to consensus on the revised survey items. The results of this study will help future statistics instructors to better understand and help to alleviate student's anxiety surrounding statistics courses. We anticipate this focus group lasting approximately one hour

**Other people in this study:** Up to 8 people will participate in this study.

**Risks and Discomforts** The major risks of this study include loss of time, along with the irritation that comes with it. Additionally, there is a risk of breach of confidentiality of these data.

**Benefits** The major benefit of this study is to better understand and alleviate student anxiety in statistics courses in general. It should also be stated that there are no direct benefits to you if you decide to participate.

**Compensation** Participants will not be financially compensated for this study.

### **Confidentiality**

Your confidentiality will be maintained to the degree permitted by the technology used. Specifically, no guarantees can be made regarding the interception of data sent via the Internet by any third parties. All digital data (focus group videos, transcripts) will be stored on OneDrive under password protection. Only the research team will have access to the data. Any identifiable data will be retained for a minimum of five years or until the manuscript is published and then destroyed thereafter once the study is fully concluded. Your confidentiality will be maintained to the degree permitted by the technology used. Specifically, no guarantees can be made regarding the interception of data sent via the Internet by any third parties.

Certain offices and people other than the researchers may have access to study records. Government agencies and UCCS employees overseeing proper study conduct may look at your study records. These offices include the UCCS Institutional Review Board, and the UCCS Office of Sponsored Programs and Research Integrity. UCCS will keep any research records confidential to the extent allowed by law. A study number rather than your name will be used on study records wherever possible. Study records may be subject to disclosure pursuant to a court order, subpoena, law or regulation.

Your de-identified data collected during this study could be used for future research studies without additional consent.

Also, your de-identified data may be made available to the scientific community in an online format as required by sponsors or publishers.

### **Voluntary Participation and Withdrawal from the Study**

Taking part in this study is voluntary. You have the right to leave a study at any time without penalty. Withdrawal will not interfere with your future care or services at UCCS. You may refuse to do any procedures you do not feel comfortable with, or answer any questions that you do not wish to answer. If you withdraw from the study, you may request that your research information not be used by contacting the Principal Investigator listed above and below.

If you are a UCCS student or employee, taking part in this research is not part of your class work or duties. You can refuse to enroll, or withdraw after enrolling at any time, with no effect on your class standing, grades, or job at your current institution. You will not be offered, or receive, any special consideration if you take part in this research.

### **Contact Information**

Contact (PI's info): [klindsay@uccs.edu](mailto:klindsay@uccs.edu), 719-255-4651

- if you have any questions about this study or your part in it,
- if you have questions, concerns or complaints about the research, or

- if you would like information about the survey results when they are prepared.

Contact the Research Compliance Program Director at 719-255-3903 or via email at [irb@uccs.edu](mailto:irb@uccs.edu):

- if you have questions about your rights as a research participant, or
- if you have questions, concerns or complaints about the research.

### **Consent**

A copy of this consent form will be provided to you.

Are you interested in being contacted about future research I may conduct? ☐ Yes or ☐ No.

I understand the above information and voluntarily consent to participate in the research. By signing this consent, I am confirming that I am 18 years of age or older.

Signature of Participant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_