

University of California, San Diego
Consent to Participate in a Program Investigating Educational Research Questions
The JSOE Undergraduate Research Program Research Study

Christine Alvarado and her colleagues in the Computer Science & Engineering (CSE) department have developed the Jacobs School of Engineering Research Program (JSOE URP) program with the goals of (1) deeply engaging students early in their engineering or computer science careers and in the JSOE at UCSD and (2) increasing retention and overall representation of a diverse body of students within engineering and CSE at UCSD. In conjunction with this program, we are conducting a research study on students' experiences in the program and the effectiveness of the program in helping students succeed in engineering and CSE majors at UCSD. You have been selected to participate in this research study because you are a participant in the JSOE URP program. Over the course of the study, a total of about 500 undergraduate students will participate.

By participating in the JSOE URP study, you are expressing your willingness to:

1. Participate in the JSOE URP program and associated study for its full 3-quarter duration. Of course, we understand that issues may arise where you will not be able to or choose not to continue participation. If such issues arise you may withdraw from the study without withdrawing from the JSOE URP program. You may also choose to opt out of any portion of the study by not completing surveys or participating in focus groups.
2. Provide feedback to the instructors and the evaluators of the JSOE URP program by completing surveys. You will be asked to complete approximately 3 surveys over the course of the year; at the start of your participation, upon completion of program specific coursework, and at the end of the program. Additionally, you may be contacted after the program is over to complete one or more follow up surveys. Each survey will be administered electronically, take approximately 20 minutes to complete, and may be completed at a time convenient for you, using your computer or any computer with internet connectivity. You may answer as much or as little of each survey as you like, and you can choose not to complete any of the surveys, even if you consent to participate in the research study.
3. Optionally provide feedback to the instructors and the evaluators of the JSOE URP program by participating in focus groups and/or interviews. The purpose of the focus groups is to understand your experiences with the program, in particular what's working and what aspects of the program could be improved. We will also ask about specific challenges you face in your engineering or CSE majors, additional supports needed, as well as your short- and long-term educational plans and aspirations. Focus groups are expected to last 60-90 minutes, with sites and times to be determined by a consensus of the invitees using doodle poll (or similar scheduling tools). Participating in the focus groups is completely voluntary. You may opt out of participating in a focus group even if you consent to participate in the research study.
4. You will allow access to your academic records through the registrar to determine: 1) demographic characteristics, 2) persistence in the engineering or CSE major over time, 3) graduation from UCSD, 4) GPA at the end of each academic year, and 5) performance in key engineering or CSE courses. This information will be used to determine persistence in the engineering or CSE major, overall academic performance, and performance in key course work in your engineering or CSE major relative to a control group of engineering or CSE students not participating in the JSOE URP program.

What risks are associated with this study?

Participation in this study may involve some risks. These include the following:

1. A potential for the loss of confidentiality.
 - a. We will ask for your name and UCSD student ID number when you enter the JSOE URP program and when you complete surveys. This information is collected for two reasons: 1) to perform analyses of survey data to allow us to determine if your attitudes about the program and the engineering or CSE major change over time, and 2) to access your demographic and academic information through the registrar at UCSD. Your name and identification number will be retained only by the evaluation team and not your department. The evaluation team will recode your data, assigning a randomly generated unique identifier which will take the place of your name and student ID in any working files of data collected or information subsequently shared with your department. Only the evaluation team will have access to the file which connects your name and UC student ID and the new unique identifier; that file will be maintained in an encrypted external storage drive, kept in locked storage. Prior to sharing information with any departments or the PI, any information which could be used to identify you as an individual will be redacted. The data files maintained by the evaluation team will be retained only until the completion of the study, after which they will be destroyed.
 - b. We will audiotape focus groups that you may be asked to participate in over the course of your involvement in the JSOE URP. Audio recordings from focus groups will be transcribed and once the transcription is verified, the audio recordings will be destroyed. What you say in focus groups and how you respond to survey questions will not be shared with JSOE Departments, your faculty advisor, or faculty/staff associated with the JSOE URP until identifying information is removed. This includes redacting personally identifiable information which you may share over the course of the focus group.
 - c. Research records will be kept confidential to the extent allowed by law. Research records may be reviewed by the UCSD Institutional Review Board.
2. Although it is not anticipated, there may be a potential risk for boredom or fatigue with participation in this evaluation. If you experience these feelings, you may stop any survey or focus group at any point.
3. Because this is a research study, there may also be some unknown risks that are currently unforeseeable. You will be informed of any significant new findings.

What benefits can be reasonably expected?

There may or may not be any direct to you from participation in this study. However, what you tell us and what we learn will be used to help strengthen JSOE URP and to determine if the program is working as intended. This information may help students who enter these programs after you by making the programs better.

What are the alternatives to participating in this study?

Participation in this research is completely voluntary. If you decide not to participate, or to discontinue your participation, that decision will not be communicated to anyone associated with your major. You may also choose not to participate in individual aspects of the study by individually opting out of any survey or focus group. Your decision to participate or not participate, is completely separate from your major and regardless of your decision there will be no effect on your grades or class standing, your relationship with your faculty or other advisors within

the major. You may continue participation in the JSOE URP program with limited or no participation in the study.

Can you choose to not participate or withdraw from the study without penalty or loss of benefits?

Participation in this research is entirely voluntary. You may refuse to participate or withdraw or refuse to answer specific questions in a focus group or on a survey at any time without penalty or loss. If you decide that you no longer wish to continue in this study, simply tell Dr. Alvarado or other JSOE URP personnel at one of your program events or meetings, send an email to the address at the bottom of the page, or telephone Dr. Alvarado using the number provided. We will remove you from the survey and focus group lists and you will not be contacted further. Choosing not to participate in the research study does not affect your participation in JSOE URP.

Will you be compensated for participating in this study?

You will not be compensated for participation in this study. Any compensation you receive through the JSOE URP is not related to your participation in the research study. Participation in this study will not affect your grades or class standing in any way.

Are there any costs associated with participating in this study?

There will be no cost to you for participating in this study.

What if you are injured as a direct result of being in this study?

If you are injured as a direct result of participation in this research, the University of California will provide any medical care you need to treat those injuries. The University will not provide any other form of compensation to you if you are injured. You may call the Human Research Protections Program Office at (858)-246-4777 for more information about this, to inquire about your rights as a research subject or to report research-related problems.

Can you be withdrawn from the study without your consent?

The PI may remove you from the study without your consent if the PI feels it is in your best interest or the best interest of the study. You may also be withdrawn from the study if you do not follow the instructions given you by the study personnel.

Who can you call if you have questions?

Christine Alvarado and/or _____ has explained this study to you and answered your questions. If you have other questions or research-related problems, you may reach Christine Alvarado at (858) 534-2311, or you can send email to cjalvarado@eng.ucsd.edu. You may also call the UCSD Human Research Protections Program Office at (858)-246-4777 to ask about your rights as a research subject, to report research problems, or to report research related injuries.

Your Signature and Consent

You have received a copy of this consent document. You agree to participate.

Please print your name _____

Your signature: _____ Date: _____

Witness: _____ Date: _____