Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia Tech Graduate Exit Surveys

Investigators: Joseph Ludlum, Ph.D.
Protocol and Consent Title: Georgia Tech Graduate Exit Surveys

You are being asked to be a volunteer in a research study.

**Purpose:**
The purpose of this study is to learn more about the graduate student experience at Georgia Tech.

**Exclusion/Inclusion Criteria:**
All graduate students finishing their degrees are being asked to participate.

**Procedures:**
You are being asked to participate in the a brief web-based survey about your experiences and attitudes about Georgia Tech. You will be asked about their experiences with faculty, their view on what they have learned, and experiences with program support services. Following this survey, you will be directed to the Survey of Earned Doctorates, a national survey for all students completing their Doctoral Degrees. This survey includes other questions about your research experiences, and your post-graduation plans.

Your taking the 30 minutes or so to take these surveys will provide feedback about Doctoral studies and graduate experience at Georgia Tech. You may choose to skip any items on this survey that you are not comfortable with or do not wish to answer.

Feedback is also available for other programs and services within the institution. With your permission, this data may be used in more detailed analysis of experiences and outcomes, with potential for publication.

**Risks or Discomforts:**
The risks involved are no greater than those involved in using a computer.

**Benefits:**
You are not likely to benefit directly from this study. The survey results will be used to provide feedback to academic units for self-assessment and program evaluation, including accreditation. Feedback will also be provided to other programs and services within the Institution. These results may shape future policies and programs related to graduate education and experience.

**Compensation to You:**
While we appreciate your involvement very much you will not be paid for your participation, nor are there any costs to you to participate except for your time.

**Confidentiality:**
Please be assured that your answers are confidential. The following procedures will be followed to keep your personal information confidential in this study: The data that is collected about you will be kept private to the extent allowed by law. To protect your privacy, your responses will be kept under a code key rather than by name. All data will be kept in secure files and only study staff will be allowed to look at them. Your name and any other fact that might point to you will not appear when results of this study are presented or published. Please be assured that your participation or non-participation will not affect your status at Georgia Tech.
Both portions of this experiment are run from secure servers using 256-bit SSL encryption (https) of the kind typically used to handle credit card transactions, greatly reducing the possibility that responses could be viewed by unauthorized third parties (e.g., computer hackers). Also, in general the server software will log the IP address of the machine you use to access this page, e.g., 192.168.1.1, but otherwise no other information will be stored unless you explicitly enter it.

To make sure that this research is being carried out in the proper way, the Georgia Institute of Technology IRB may review study records. The Office of Human Research Protections may also look at study records.

**Costs to You:**
There are no costs to you, other than your time, for being in this study.

**In Case of Injury/Harm:**
If you are injured as a result of being in this study, please contact Joseph Ludlum, Ph.D., at telephone (404) 385-1292, or joe.ludlum@oars.gatech.edu. Neither the Principal Investigator nor Georgia Institute of Technology has made provision for payment of costs associated with any injury resulting from participation in this study.

**Participant Rights:**
- Your participation in this survey is voluntary. You do not have to be in this study if you don't want to be.
- You have the right to change your mind and leave the study at any time without giving any reason and without penalty.
- Any new information that may make you change your mind about being in this study will be given to you.
  - You may print out a copy of this consent form to keep. You do not waive any of your legal rights by participating in this research survey.

**Questions about the Study:**
If you have any questions about the study, you may contact Dr. Joseph Ludlum at telephone (404) 385-1292, or by email at survey@oars.gatech.edu for answers.

**Questions about Your Rights as a Research Participant:**
If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact

Ms. Kelly Winn, Georgia Institute of Technology
Office of Research Integrity Assurance, at (404) 385-2175.

By completing the online survey, you indicate your consent to be in the study.