

INFORMED CONSENT FORM

William Joiner Institute for the Study of War and Social Consequences

University of Massachusetts Boston
100 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3393

Consent Form for:

The Tri-University Veteran Retention and Graduation Comparison Study

Introduction and Contact Information

You are being asked to take part in a research study. **Participation is voluntary.** The researchers are:

William Joiner Institute for the Study of War and Social Consequences (WJI): Steve Medeiros, Ayla Rich; University of Connecticut: Jordan Dean; and University of Texas, Arlington: Rosaly Cuesta. The faculty advisors are Thomas Miller, CEO, WJI; and Brendan O'Connor, Director, WJI. Please read this form and feel free to ask questions. If you have questions, you can reach Brendan O'Connor, Director, WJI, at brendan.oconnor@umb.edu. The sponsor of the study is the William Joiner Institute for the Study of War and Social Consequences and [IF FUNDING IS APPROVED] The Boston Area Research Initiative (BARI).

Additional researchers: Dr Donna Schuman and Andrew Picart of University of Texas, Arlington

Description of the Project:

This study will analyze student veteran experiences and identify best practices and challenges faced by university personnel at three universities (UMass Boston, UConn, and UT Arlington) to develop recommendations to assist institutions in serving their student veteran population. There will not be any audio or visual recordings made. Several methods will be used in this study:

An electronic survey should take less than 5 minutes to complete.

Virtual or in-person focus groups and should take less than an hour to complete.

Virtual or in-person interviews and should take less than 45 minutes to complete.

Risks or Discomforts:

A risk of participation is a loss of confidentiality. We will do everything we can to protect your information.

You may feel uncomfortable when completing any research materials or answering questions.

You may skip any questions or stop participating at any time.

You may feel uncomfortable when participating in this research and may skip any questions or stop participating at any time. You may speak with the researcher, or the principal investigator to discuss any distress or other issues related to study participation. If you wish to discuss concerns with a mental health counselor, you are encouraged to contact the VA Veterans Mental Health Crisis line: Call 800-273-8255, then select 1.

Benefits:

There is no direct benefit to you from participating in this study, although your participation may help us learn more about the experiences of student veterans at the three universities and may help policy makers better serve the student body.

Confidentiality:

Your part in this research is confidential. That is, the information gathered for this project will not be published or presented in a way that would allow anyone to identify you. Information gathered for this project will be password protected or stored in a locked file cabinet and only the research team will have access to the data.

The University of Massachusetts Boston Institutional Review Board (IRB) that oversees human research and its representatives may inspect and copy your information. Due to the nature of focus groups, confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. To respect the privacy of your fellow participants, do not repeat what is said in the focus group to others.

All identifiable information that could directly identify you (e.g., your name) will be removed from the information collected in this study. After we remove all identifiers, the information may also be used for future research or shared with other researchers without additional consent. Information will not be shared with UConn or UTA until these identifiers have been removed.

Voluntary Participation:

The decision whether or not to take part in this research study is voluntary. If you do decide to take part in this study, you may end your participation at any time without consequence. Your decision to participate or not to participate will not affect your grades or status as a student or employee; and it will not affect your relationship with the organization. If you wish to end your participation, you should inform anyone on the research team.

Questions:

You have the right to ask questions about this research before you agree to be in this study and at any time during the study. If you have further questions about this research or if you have a research-related problem, you can reach Brendan O'Connor at brendan.oconnor@umb.edu

If you have any questions or concerns about your rights as a research participant, please contact a representative of the Institutional Review Board (IRB), at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, which oversees research involving human participants. The Institutional Review Board may be reached by telephone or e-mail at (617) 287-5374 or at human.subjects@umb.edu.

By verbally agreeing to participate in the survey, focus group or interview, you will be agreeing to participate in the research. Please keep a copy of this form for your records or if you need to contact me.