

Consent to Participate in Research
University of Illinois Department of Mathematics

**Digital Content and Online Homework in University Mathematics
Education**
Evaluating Benefits

You are being invited to participate in a research project conducted by Alison Ahlgren, Coordinator for Quantitative Reasoning Courses and member of the faculty of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Alison Champion, the Assistant to the Director of Undergraduate Studies in Mathematics; Karen Mortensen, Advisor for the Master's Degree Program in Mathematics and member of the faculty of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and Tom Carty, member of the faculty of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The purpose of the research is to determine the effectiveness of digital content and online homework usage, and to determine whether there is a correlation between electronic content use and course outcomes.

No additional effort is required on your part to participate in this research. We are asking for your permission to collect your ALEKS and MathZone scores for this study, and to correlate these with the grades in your math course at the end of the semester. The study will begin in August 2007, with data collection taking place through May 2008. The final data analysis will be complete by November 2008.

Participation in this study is voluntary. You may choose to withdraw from the study at any point. The decision to participate, decline, or withdraw from participation will have no effect on your grades at, status at, or future relations with the University of Illinois.

The Department of Mathematics continually seeks to improve the quality of its courses and the performance level of its students. To that end, we are asking for student participation in research projects such as this. The benefits of this study are 1) a better understanding of how electronic content affects your learning process, 2) improvements to mathematics courses you may take during your time at UIUC, and 3) the opportunity to help inform curricular and course planning decisions.

Though some of the information we gather about you is personal (e.g. grade information), we will carefully protect the confidentiality of this information, so that the risks from participating in this study are no different from those of ordinary life. The individual data linking students to personal information will be securely destroyed at the conclusion of this study.

The study investigators at all times will respect and protect the confidentiality of your personal information in carrying out this study. Only the study investigators will see the raw data that you agree to provide. Published data will be aggregated so that it contains no identifying information.

The primary use of the results of this study will be to inform curricular development and course design in the UIUC Department of Mathematics to help integrate electronic content in our courses. A results report with data only in aggregate will be presented to McGraw-Hill Higher Education (MHHE). Results may also be reported at conference presentations or published in relevant educational journals.

If at any time you have questions about this research project or if you experience any problems related to your participation in the project, please contact any of the researchers:

- Alison Champion, 217-333-9199, abc@uiuc.edu
- Alison Ahlgren, 217-244-2361, alison@math.uiuc.edu
- Karen Mortensen, 217-244-4128, kmortens@math.uiuc.edu.
- Tom Carty, 217-265-6205, carty@uiuc.edu

You may also contact the UIUC Institutional Review Board Office (217-333-2670, irb@uiuc.edu, collect calls accepted) if you have questions about your rights as a research participant.

You may use the Print function of your web browser to print a copy of this informed consent form for your records.

(Pdf editable form)

- I have read and understand the above consent form, I agree to participate in this study, and I am 18 years of age or older.
- I do not wish to participate in the research project or I am under 18 years of age.

Name _____

Course and Section Number _____

To complete this form, you should first download the pdf file. After completing the form, save it and then return to Alison Ahlgren via:

e-mail to alison@math.uiuc.edu or by campus mail to 107 Altgeld Hall, MC-382