

## **INFORMED CONSENT**

**TITLE:** Life Stressors and Sexual Orientation in College Students

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**STATEMENT OF RESEARCH:** A person who is to participate in research must give their informed consent to such participation. You may choose to accept or decline to participate in this study, and your decision should be based on a clear understanding of the nature and risks of the research. This document provides information that is important for this understanding. If you have any questions, please ask at any time in person or by email or phone.

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY?** People have a wide range of life experiences and perceptions of these experiences which impact their emotional health. The purpose of this study is to examine how these different life stressors are related to cognitive-emotional processes in college students of all sexual orientations. You are eligible to participate in this research study if you are a college student who is 18-25 years old.

**WHAT IS THE OUTCOME OF THIS STUDY?** The outcome of this study will be a senior research presentation and a paper which may possibly be submitted for publication. These outcomes will describe group averages and will not include any individually identifiable information.

**HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL PARTICIPATE?** Approximately 100 college students ages 18-25 will take part in this study.

**HOW LONG WILL I BE IN THIS STUDY?** This study will last approximately 30 minutes.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING THIS STUDY?** If you decide to participate, you will complete questionnaires about your sexual orientation, your experiences with life stressors, and with mental health symptoms such as depression. You will have the option to skip any questions that you prefer not to answer.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF THE STUDY?** There may be some risk from being in this study, although such risks are not viewed as being in excess of “minimal risk”. For example, some people find it tiresome or frustrating to complete questionnaires and some people find it upsetting to be asked questions about personal topics such as sexual orientation and mental health symptoms. If you become upset by any questions, please remember that you can skip any questions that you would prefer not to answer, and you can stop participating in the study altogether at any time. You are encouraged to contact your university/college counseling service, or another mental health service provider if you find that this study brings up personal feelings that you would like to talk about.

**WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THIS STUDY?** You will not personally benefit from being in this study (except perhaps as a learning experience). However, we hope that greater understanding of the stressors some college students face may eventually improve our ability to help people suffering from psychological difficulties.

**ALTERNATIVES TO PARTICIPATING IN THIS STUDY:** You may choose NOT to participate in the study and you may withdraw at any time.

**WILL I BE PAID FOR PARTICIPATING?** Upon completion of the study, participants with a valid college email address will be eligible to enroll in a raffle giving away \$20 Amazon Gift Cards. A total of twenty-five participants will be selected in the raffle to receive these gift cards by the end of April 2019.

**WHO IS FUNDING THE STUDY?** Gettysburg College and the research team are receiving no payments from other agencies, organizations, or companies to conduct this research study.

**CONFIDENTIALITY:** The data collected for this research are anonymous, meaning that nobody in the future will know that you participated in this study or be able to match data to you. Although we will record your name in order to compensate you for participating, the list of names is not linked with study data and will be deleted when the study has been completed, by May of 2020.

**IS THIS STUDY VOLUNTARY?** Your participation is voluntary. You may choose not to participate or you may discontinue your participation at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. Your decision whether or not to participate will not affect your current or future relations with Gettysburg College.

**CONTACTS AND QUESTIONS?** If you have questions, concerns, or complaints about the research, please contact the researcher, Mary Nicole Buckley at [buckma03@gettysburg.edu](mailto:buckma03@gettysburg.edu). If you have any questions regarding your rights as a research participant, you may contact the Gettysburg College Institutional Review Board via email at [irb@gettysburg.edu](mailto:irb@gettysburg.edu).

**TO DOWNLOAD A COPY OF THIS CONSENT FORM:** click this link [here](#) to open a copy of this form as a pdf in a separate window.

## **CONSENT**

Your consent indicates that you are 18-25 years old, that you are currently enrolled in college, this research study has been explained to you, that your questions have been answered, and that you agree to take part in this study.

- Yes, I am an 18-25 year old college student and I agree to take part in this study
- No, I am not an 18-25 year old college student, and/or I do not agree to take part in this study at this time.