

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

Consent for Participation in a Research Study

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IRB Contact: Institutional Review Board, (860) 768-5365, irb@hartford.edu, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117

Study Title: Faculty and Staff Experiences Supporting Neurodivergent Students

Overview of the Research

You are being asked to participate in a research study. Participation is voluntary. You can choose whether or not to take part.

The purpose of this study is to better understand faculty and staff experiences, perspectives, and perceived preparedness related to supporting neurodivergent students at the University of Hartford. The findings may help guide professional development and support future campus neurodiversity initiatives. Results may also be used in presentations, articles, or publications.

If you agree to participate, you will complete a one-time online survey using Qualtrics. The survey takes approximately 5 to 7 minutes to complete.

This study involves minimal risk. Some questions may feel personal or mildly uncomfortable because they ask about your experiences, confidence, and views related to supporting neurodivergent students.

You may not receive any direct benefit from participating. However, your responses may help improve understanding of faculty and staff needs and may help inform future supports and professional development efforts.

Why is this study being done?

This study is being done to better understand faculty and staff experiences, perspectives, and perceived preparedness related to supporting neurodivergent students at the University of Hartford.

What will I be asked to do?

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to complete one online survey using Qualtrics. The survey includes questions about:

- your role at the University
- your experiences supporting neurodivergent students
- your confidence and access to resources

- campus climate and support needs
- professional development interests
- optional written feedback
- limited demographic information

You may skip any question you do not want to answer. You may stop at any time before submitting the survey.

What are the risks or inconveniences?

This study involves minimal risk. Some questions may make you feel mildly uncomfortable or reflective. Because this is an online survey, the research team will take reasonable steps to protect data, but confidentiality of information shared over the internet cannot be absolutely guaranteed.

What are the benefits?

You may not directly benefit from participating. However, the information gathered may help improve understanding of campus needs and may help inform future professional development and neurodiversity-related support efforts.

Will I be paid? Are there costs?

You will not be paid to participate. There are no costs to you other than the time required to complete the survey.

How will my information be protected?

Responses will be collected anonymously. The survey does not ask for your name or other direct identifying information. Qualtrics settings will be configured to reduce collection of identifying metadata. Results will be reported only in summary or aggregate form.

Survey data will be stored within Qualtrics. Access to raw data will be limited to the principal investigator and research assistant. Data will be retained for at least 3 years.

If a separate form is used for participants who want a summary of results, that contact information will be collected separately and will not be linked to survey responses.

Because responses are anonymous, once a survey is submitted, it will not be possible to identify and remove an individual participant's data.

Can I stop participating?

Yes. You do not have to participate. If you begin the survey and decide to stop, you may exit at any time before submitting. There are no penalties or consequences if you choose not to participate.

Who can I contact with questions?

If you have questions about the study, please contact Dr. Christopher Abildgaard, at abildgaar@hartford.edu or (203) 376-7155.

You may also contact Danielle LaSalle at dlasalle@hartford.edu.

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact the University of Hartford Institutional Review Board at (860) 768-5365.

Consent

By proceeding to the survey, you indicate that you are at least 18 years old, have read this information, and agree to participate in this study.