

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** September 22, 2020  
**TO:** Nicole Pitterson, Alejandro Hanginon Espera Jr  
**FROM:** Virginia Tech Institutional Review Board (FWA00000572, expires October 29, 2024)  
**PROTOCOL TITLE:** Exploring the intersection of prior knowledge, course content and design on students' conceptual understanding  
**IRB NUMBER:** **18-088**

Effective September 22, 2020, the Virginia Tech Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) determined that this protocol meets the criteria for exemption from IRB review under 45 CFR 46.101 (b) category(ies) 1.

Ongoing IRB review and approval by this organization is not required. This determination applies only to the activities described in the IRB submission and does not apply should any changes be made. If changes are made and there are questions about whether these activities impact the exempt determination, please submit an amendment to the HRPP for a determination.

This exempt determination does not apply to any collaborating institution(s). The Virginia Tech HRPP and IRB cannot provide an exemption that overrides the jurisdiction of a local IRB or other institutional mechanism for determining exemptions.

All investigators (listed above) are required to comply with the researcher requirements outlined at:

<https://secure.research.vt.edu/external/irb/responsibilities.htm>

(Please review responsibilities before beginning your research.)

**PROTOCOL INFORMATION:**

Determined As: **Exempt, under 45 CFR 46.101(b) category(ies) 1**

Protocol Determination Date: **March 22, 2018**

**ASSOCIATED FUNDING:**

The table on the following page indicates whether grant proposals are related to this protocol, and which of the listed proposals, if any, have been compared to this protocol, if required.

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

This amendment, submitted June 23, 2020, updates research protocol to update the subject pool and the description of the recruitment methods, updates to the consent process to indicate that consent will be obtained through the online survey, updates to the study procedures to indicate that data will be collected virtually and not that there are no in-person activities, compensation has been added to include \$15 gift card; and updates to add adult-aged college students. Research personnel was updated to remove Ruchik Thaker. Data collection instruments were updated to add Qualtrics generated survey and to remove the classroom observations for students.

Date*	OSP Number	Sponsor	Grant Comparison Conducted?

\* Date this proposal number was compared, assessed as not requiring comparison, or comparison information was revised.

If this protocol is to cover any other grant proposals, please contact the HRPP office ([irb@vt.edu](mailto:irb@vt.edu)) immediately.