

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 31, 2020
TO: Natalie Christine Trehubets Van Tyne, Lisa McNair, Jennifer Benning
FROM: Virginia Tech Institutional Review Board (FWA00000572, expires October 29, 2024)
PROTOCOL TITLE: Exploring the Learning Strategies of First-Year Engineering Students in Order to Mitigate Academic Disengagement in the Sophomore Year
IRB NUMBER: 20-725

Based on the submitted project description and items listed in the Special Instructions section found on Page 2, the Virginia Tech Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) has determined that the proposed activity is not research involving human subjects as defined by HHS and FDA regulations.

Further review and approval by the Virginia Tech Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) is not required because this is not human research. This determination applies only to the activities described in the submitted project description and does not apply should any changes be made. If changes are made you must immediately submit an Amendment to the HRPP for a new determination. Your amendment must include a description of the changes and you must upload all revised documents. At that time, the HRPP will review the submission activities to confirm the original "Not Research" decision or to advise if a new application must be made.

If there are additional undisclosed components that you feel merit a change in this initial determination, please contact our office for a consultation.

Please be aware that receiving a "Not Research" Determination is not the same as IRB review and approval of the activity. You are NOT to use IRB consent forms or templates for these activities. If you have any questions, please contact the Virginia Tech HRPP office at 540-231-3732 or irb@vt.edu.

PROTOCOL INFORMATION:

Determined As: **Not Research**
Protocol Determination Date: **August 31, 2020**

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 activity does not meet the definition of research as defined within the Federal Policy for the Protections of Human Subjects. The primary goal is to address the problem of academic disengagement among rising sophomore engineering students through identification and analysis of learning approaches and strategies used by first-year students who plan to enter a bachelor's program in their chosen engineering discipline. The activity involves administering surveys to students enrolled in ENGE 1215, Foundations of Engineering I and ENGE 1216, Foundations of Engineering II at Virginia Tech. This activity does not meet the definition of research since information collected will be focused on students in the ENGE 1215 and ENGE 1216 courses at Virginia Tech, and will not be generalizable.

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) immediately.