

Spit for Science: The VCU Student Survey

IRB #: HM13352

Investigator: Danielle Dick, Ph.D.
Depts. Psychology & Human and Molecular Genetics, VCU

Survey Consent: **FALL Participant**

This document contains the text from the Introduction to the Survey. This constitutes the consent for the survey and is presented on-line. Students who agree to these terms and want to participate in the survey give their consent electronically through the survey link. We encourage all participants to download a copy of this consent form for their records.

Welcome to Spit for Science: The VCU Student Survey. Do you want to learn more about the project?

- Yes, I want to learn more about Spit for Science: The VCU Student Survey [[Link to survey introduction](#)]
 No, I want to withdraw from the project [[Link to withdraw from survey](#)]

Thank you for your interest in Spit for Science: The VCU Student Survey, a research project directed by Dr. Danielle Dick. Research is an important part of all universities. The Spit for Science project is an opportunity for VCU students to get involved in the research process. One of the things that researchers here at VCU are interested in is what factors contribute to how well students do during their college years. As you are well aware, starting college is a major milestone, associated with a lot of big life transitions. For many of you this will be an exciting time, filled with new opportunities. But the college years are harder for some students. For some individuals, this period can be a high risk time for the development of problems associated with alcohol and other drug use, and emotional health. We want to understand what factors contribute to these outcomes, so that we can ultimately use this information to improve the quality of life for our VCU students.

The Spit for Science survey contains questions about your personality and behavior, as well as your family, friends, and experiences growing up. It covers topics including living situation; personality; family history and childhood upbringing; experience of stressful life events; social support; alcohol and drug use, and other illegal behaviors; high school behavior; emotional health, including depression, anxiety and eating disorders; caffeine use; friends' behavior and nicotine use. We will also be asking you for alternate points of contacts. You may skip any question that you do not want to answer. If you want to skip a question, please select 'I choose not to answer'. The survey will take approximately 15-30 minutes to complete.

You will receive \$10 cash for your completion of this survey. Following the survey you will be instructed on where to collect your \$10. You will need to complete a W9 form which will ask for your social security number. You may decline to provide your social security number. In addition, you will have the opportunity to receive another \$10 at the time that you collect your reimbursement for the survey by providing a DNA (saliva) sample. We provide more details at the end of this survey about this saliva sample; however, it is not required for participation in this part of the research. In the future, you will be contacted again for follow-up surveys. You will have the opportunity to decline to participate at that time. The information you provide may be used to select students to invite them to participate in future studies. You will be contacted about these studies and can decline to participate in any of those studies at that time.

There are no more than minimal risks involved in this survey; however, with all research participation, there is a risk that participant confidentiality could be compromised. Standard practices will be used to protect participant confidentiality and personal information, including removing identifiers from all data collected, using only numbers to identify participant data, and keeping all data files securely stored. No names will be used in computerized data files.

You will not get any direct benefit from completing this survey, but the information we learn from people in this study will help us understand why some people are more likely than others to develop problems associated with alcohol use, other substances, and emotional health. We also plan to connect the survey data to other university data, such as, academic data (e.g. GPA, enrollment status, major, graduation status, years to completion, etc.) and data related to university involvement (e.g. extra curricular involvement) to understand how behavioral and academic factors are associated with college outcomes. This information will be used to help guide future VCU programming. This information will be de-identified; your name and other identifiable information will not be connected with these data.

The questionnaire will ask some questions about difficulties that various people experience, be it past experiences that were hard, or difficulties with substances or other mental health problems. If you are experiencing any challenges in these areas, you can contact

University Counseling Services at 828-6200. If it is an emergency or after business hours you can call VCU police at 828-1234 and ask to speak to a counselor. There is someone on call all day, every day, all year long.

Your participation in this research is completely voluntary. The university will not know if you have participated or not, nor what your responses to any of the questions are. Your participation will not affect your class work. Refusal to participate or withdrawal from participation will involve no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

All responses to this survey will be kept strictly confidential. The people who have access to the names of participants (necessary for reimbursement) will not have access to your survey responses, and the investigators who will be analyzing the data from the survey responses will not have access to your names or any other identifying information. A data and safety-monitoring plan has also been established. In addition, all of the information collected in this study is protected under a Certificate of Confidentiality issued by the Federal Government. The Certificate prevents us from being compelled to reveal your identity or the information you have given us, even under court order, unless you give written permission to do so. We will use this Certificate to protect the confidentiality of your data. Additional details about the protections and limitations associated with a Certificate of Confidentiality can be found at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/coc/>.

You may choose not to answer any of the questions, and you may withdraw your consent and discontinue participation in this study by selecting 'No, I do not want to participate in this study' from the options below, and completing the following withdraw options. Additionally, you can withdraw your consent at any time by contacting the research team at 804-628-4645 or spit4science@vcu.edu. You need to provide a response to all items on the survey to receive the \$10 compensation. You will have an option 'I choose not to answer' for all questions on the survey. Once you complete the survey, or if you leave the survey before finishing, make sure to close your web browser so that others cannot see your information.

You can contact the Spit for Science research team at 804-628-4645 if you have any questions about this project. If you have general questions about your rights as a research subject or general concerns you may contact:

Office of Research
Virginia Commonwealth University
800 East Leigh Street, Suite 3000
PO Box 980568
Richmond, VA 23298
(804) 827-2157

Please call this number if you cannot reach the research team or wish to talk to someone else.

By participating in Spit for Science: The VCU Student Survey, you acknowledge that:

- Your answers will be recorded.
- You will be contacted again in the future for follow-up surveys. You will have the opportunity to decline to participate at that time. The information you provide may be used to select students to invite them to participate in future studies. You will be contacted about future studies and can decline to participate in any of those studies at that time.
- Coded data (i.e., de-identified data that is not connected to your name or any other identifying information about you) may be shared with other researchers and other individuals at the university, and linked to other university data
- Should you choose to provide a DNA sample, your survey answers will be associated with that sample using a coded number, but not your name or other identifying information. In the future DNA data and associated survey answers may be included in the National Institutes of Health Genome Wide Association Study (GWAS) database. This is a de-identified and confidential national database that allows approved scientists to work together to advance genetic science. More information about this will be provided in the DNA consent form (and is available on-line at www.spit4science.vcu.edu). If you choose not to participate in the DNA component, this will not apply to you.

The following options are presented:

Yes, I understand this and want to participate in Spit for Science: The VCU Student Survey. (*Link to take them to the survey*)
I want to think about it more before making a decision about participation. Please exit by closing your browser. (Do not click 'previous page', 'next page', or 'save and return later'.)

(*Students who choose this option will continue to receive e-mail reminders.*)

(*Link to the following text*):

You can learn more about Spit for Science: The VCU Student Survey by visiting our website at www.spit4science.vcu.edu.

No, I do not want to participate in the study. (*Link to take them to the withdrawal text*)