Institutional Review Board
Research with Human Subjects
Protocol Submission Form

Federal regulations and University policy require that all research involving humans as subjects be reviewed and approved by the University Institutional Review Board (IRB) prior to conducting the research.

I. General Information

A. Protocol Title
Monetary Perception Amongst Varying Grades and Sexes and How Stress Levels Are Affected

B. Purpose of Project								
Student Research (check one):	X	Class project	(Course #)	73847	Dissertation		Thesis	
Faculty/Staff Research (indicate funding source): ☐ Non-funded ☐ University funds ☐ Corporate sponsor ☐ Foundation								

C. Investigator Information									
Principal Investigator Information (PI must be an ISU faculty or staff member)									
Principal Investigator	George Bryant		Faculty	X	Staff				
Co-Principal Investigator Information						Participation Start Date			
Co-Principal Investigator/s	Cameron Oddieo Jake Pearson Michelle Costales Michael Mendola Johni Cesario		Faculty		Staff		Graduate Student	X	Undergraduate Student

II. Principal Investigator Assurance

By signing this package in IRBNet, as Principal Investigator, I certify that to the best of my knowledge:

1. The information provided for this project is correct
2. I agree to conduct this research as described in the attached supporting documents and no other procedures will be used.
3. I will not implement any changes to the protocol (procedures, personnel, etc.), including modifications requested by the funding agency, prior to receiving written approval from the IRB.
4. I will comply with federal and University policies for conducting ethical research.
5. I will be responsible for ensuring that the work of my co-investigator(s)/student researcher(s) complies with this protocol.
6. Any unexpected or otherwise significant events in the course of this study will be promptly reported to the REC.
7. I understand that any noncompliance associated with this protocol can result in disciplinary action under the IRB as well as the Academic Integrity policy of the University.

III. Protocol Description

A. GENERAL

The IRB is required to assess whether the proposed research design is scientifically sound and will not unnecessarily expose subjects to risk. Please provide a **BRIEF** description of the proposed research. State the goals and/or hypotheses of this study and how these goals relate to previous research in this area. The description must be made in **LAYPERSON'S TERMS**, as the IRB is made up of researchers, non-researchers, and community members with diverse backgrounds and expertise. *Any technical terms or terms of art must be explained.* If the research is being conducted in conjunction with classroom activities, be sure to clearly describe the normal classroom activities separately from the research component.

We are aiming to look into the relationship between financial confidence and stress levels amongst college students. The levels of reported confidence regarding financial standings and other monetary actions will be collected for a variety of groups and compared. The groups will be; men vs women, and the different college levels (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior). Our goal is to find which of these groups experiences the most/least levels of stress, and how the differences in these groups relates to the corresponding stress levels.

This study will use ten questions in likert scale format ranging in levels 1-7. This survey should roughly fifteen minutes to complete and will be directed towards undergraduate students over the age of 18 that attend Arizona State University.

R1: Does the perception of monetary value differ between men and women?
R2: How much debt has been accumulated since freshman year has commenced?

B. METHODOLOGY

1. **Subject Selection and Recruitment:** The IRB must assure that subjects have been selected equitably in terms of gender, race, and ethnicity; that benefits are distributed fairly among the community's populations; and that additional safeguards are in place to protect vulnerable populations.

   a) Identify all participant groups in the study and indicate criteria for including or excluding individuals from participation, such as gender, race, socioeconomic level, age, etc.

   For the purpose of this study, we will need to collect data from both men and women of different college levels. We will use 2 male and 2 female freshman, as well as sophomore, junior etc. The only factors that we will take into account regarding participant selection are grade level and gender.

   Participants will be undergraduate students, both male and female, above the age of 18, with no specifications.

   b) Total number of subjects: **16** .

If targeting males/females specifically, indicate the numbers of: Males **8** and/or Females **8**.
Provide an explanation of why this gender is being targeted:

We are aiming to analyze data for both men and women. Having an equal number of each in the individual college levels will allow us to represent each gender properly. The examinations deals with monetary value that has no gender biases.

If targeting a specific age range, indicate the range: From **18** to **∞**.
Provide an explanation of why this age range is being targeted:

Participants will need to be at least 18 years of age so that the researcher does not need to require parental consent for the study.

c) Federal regulations and guidance contain explicit requirements for conducting research with protected populations such as children, mentally disabled individuals, prisoners, pregnant women (where the condition of being pregnant is related to the research,) and persons unable to provide legal consent, such as the cognitively impaired. Please check all that apply and complete and attach the appropriate appendices to your protocol. This study will involve:

Children **(Complete and attach Appendix B)**
Prisoners **(Complete and attach Appendix C)**
Pregnant Women, Human Fetuses, and Neonates **(Complete and attach Appendix D)**
Cognitively Impaired Individuals **(Complete and Attach Appendix E)**

d) Describe how potential participants will be identified and how access to contact information will be obtained. If you plan to obtain information not publicly available, such as non-directory information; any proprietary sources, i.e. listserv, organization roster, or school records; or other information covered under HIPAA or FERPA regulations, IRB approval of the project does not grant automatic access to this information. The individual with authority over the information has the sole responsibility for determining whether to grant access. Please include documentation of permission to use this information or describe how permission will be obtained.

Participants will self participate in this survey through the use of an online platform (Qualtrics).

e) Describe how participants will be recruited, including how will they be contacted and by whom. Attach copies of all recruitment documentation, (i.e. e-mail letters, flyers, telephone scripts, etc.).

Participants will be recruited via different social media platform postings as well as researchers utilizing a group chat format to invite participants. Those who choose to participate will be giving a URL to the survey.

2. ***Informed Consent/Permission/Assent*:** Informed consent is the process by which the subjects are provided detailed information as to the purpose of the research, the risks and benefits to them as participants, what will be expected of them, and then given the opportunity to agree to

participate or not. Consent documents and scripts must be written in a language and at a level the subjects will understand. The researcher is also responsible for minimizing coercion and undue influence. **Coercion** occurs when there is an overt or implicit threat of harm presented in order to obtain participation, such as when a subject will lose access to certain services if they decline participation, when a student will experience reprisal or disapproval from an instructor, or when an employee will experience reprisal or disapproval from a supervisor. **Undue influence** can occur when there is an offer of an excessive or inappropriate reward to secure participation, such as a large cash payment or other gift.

a) *Required Elements of Informed Consent*: The required elements of informed consent are listed in **Appendix A**, which must be completed and can be found at the end of this document. Examples of informed consent and parent permission and guidance in drafting them can be found on the REC website. Please also refer to *45 CFR 46.116* for further information on requirements for informed consent and documentation, and the waiver or modification thereof.

b) *Informed Consent Procedures*:

i. **Consent** may be obtained only from persons legally competent to give it. For research involving minors, **parental permission** as well as **minor assent** may be required. For research involving cognitively impaired individuals, consent must be given by a Legally Authorized Representative. Refer to the REC website for guidance on this issue. From whom will consent/assent/permission be obtained for this study?

We will provide consent forms for every one of the participants in our study prior to the research being done.

ii. Describe what procedures will be used (and in what order) to secure informed consent/assent. Include whether there will be written or verbal presentation, and whether signatures will be required. If written consent, permission, or assent forms are being used, attach exact copies. If presented verbally, attach a copy of the presentation script. Requests to waive informed consent and/or the documentation of consent must be justified based on language contained in the Code of Federal Regulations, CFR 46.116 and 46.117.

Before taking our survey, a consent form will be presented which will ask participants to read and understand it in its entirety. Once the participants acknowledge that they have read and understood the consent form, they will be allowed to continue with our survey.

iii. Describe who will obtain informed consent and how coercion and undue influence will be minimized.

Consent for this survey will be obtained online before the participants will be allowed to begin the survey. Participants will have the agency to proceed in survey or cease to complete the study at their own discretion. This will aid to limiting any type of coercion. Participants will be notified that all given data will be kept confidential, and that opting out at any time will provide no penalties.

3. ***Compensation:*** Compensation (e.g. payment, gifts, extra credit) for participation is allowable if it is not excessive or inappropriate. Compensation is not a benefit of participation.

   Will compensation be offered? ____Yes x No. If yes, complete the following:

   a) Indicate the type and amount.

   b) Describe how compensation will be disbursed, including how it will be handled for participants who withdraw from the study.

   c) Identify the funding source for the compensation (e.g. personal, grant, departmental).

4. ***Research Location:*** Where will the research take place? Please be as specific as possible. If research is confidential in nature, please explain how location will help preserve confidentiality.

Research will take place through an online platform. Participants will not be required to provide any type of information pertaining to their personal demographic or location. Participants will have anonymity other than providing their gender and their year of study in college.

C. PROCEDURE

1. Individuals collecting the data must be appropriately trained to handle foreseeable adverse events, such as a subject being injured or becoming emotionally distressed. They must also fully understand the research project, including confidentiality issues. Please describe who will be collecting the data and their relevant training.

Co-PIs (Jake Pearson, Giana Cesario, Cameron Oddieo, Michelle Costales, Michael Mendola, undergraduate students, Hugh Downs School of Communications) will collect data through the use of an online platform. The data will be analyzed under PI George Bryant.

2. Describe what participants will be expected to do, and in what order.

Participants will be given a consent form to acknowledge and must agree to all terms provided. After this participants will be asked fifteen questions regarding their stress levels and financial confidence.

3. The use of psychological interventions, deception, or biomedical procedures, requires special review procedures, as each has particular risks. Please check all that apply:

Psychological Interventions: e.g. contrived social situations, manipulation of the subjects' attitudes, opinions, or self-esteem. **(Complete and attach Appendix F)**

Deception: e.g. false information is given to subjects, false impressions created, or information relating to the subjects' participation is withheld from them. **(Complete and attach Appendix G)**

Biomedical procedures: e.g. the taking or withholding of medication, ingestion of any food or other substances, injections, blood drawing, or any other procedure which would normally be done under medical supervision. **(Complete and attach Appendix H)**

4. ***Audio recording, video recording, and recording still images, including digital recordings,*** of participants can present special concerns, particularly regarding confidentiality. Projects involving these must make specific mention of them in the consent documents, including information about the storage of recorded material and how and when they will be destroyed. Please check all that apply below, and **complete and attach Appendix I if required**. This project will involve:

Audio recording Video recording Still images

D. INSTRUMENTS/APPARATUS

Describe any forms, surveys, or instruments you plan to use. (Copies of each must be attached to the protocol.) If online surveys will be used, please identify the system to be used and describe the system's confidentiality protections.

First participants will be asked their gender and their year of college. Participants will then be asked nine questions pertaining to their financial confidence which will then be followed by six questions pertaining to their stress levels. (Survey questions attached)

E. DATA

Data security is critical to the protection of subjects' identities and private information. The IRB must evaluate whether the systems in place to protect the data are appropriate for the level of risk to the subjects.

1. Data can either be anonymous, confidential, or, if the subjects agree, neither anonymous nor confidential. Please note that even if names are not collected, it may be possible to identify

subjects through IP addresses for web-based surveys, the collection of certain demographic information, etc. Please consider this when checking one of the following:

Anonymous (subjects cannot be identified, either directly or through identifiers)

___x Confidential (subjects will be identified, but their identities will be protected from disclosure)

Neither (subjects will be informed that their identities will be disclosed)

2. Describe how and where will the data and signed informed consent forms be stored and kept secure. Please specify the building and room number, if applicable.

The data and signed forms will be kept in a secure online google drive.

3. Indicate who will have access to the data and signed consent form.

The 5 Co-PIs as well as the primary PI overseeing this study will all have access to data and signed forms.

4. Describe how the data will be used, both during and after the research. Indicate whether it will be disseminated through publication, presentation or other means, and in what form (e.g. identifiable raw data, aggregate results with no identifiers, etc.).

Research data will be used for an undergraduate research study for a capstone class. Any data from study will only be used towards final study. After study is completed the data will deleted entirely.

5. Describe how and when the data will be disposed of.

Once we have completed this study and submitted any information necessary for the COM 408 course, the remaining data will be erased (online) or shredded (physical forms).

F. RISKS

Risks to the subjects must be reasonable in relation to anticipated benefits, if any, to subjects, and the importance of knowledge that may reasonably be expected to result. *Physical risks* include anything potentially harmful to the body, including injury, illness, or death, while *psychological risks* can include reactions such as emotional distress or anxiety. *Social risks* include exposure to criminal or civil liability, or damage to the subjects' financial standing, employability, or reputation. Please note that all risks must be articulated in the consent form.

1. Describe foreseeable risks to the subject.

The only foreseeable risks to subjects regarding this study would be psychological ones. This study will be looking into stress levels regarding financial standing/knowledge. Having participants think about this and give us information regarding this could lead to added stress/anxiety regarding financial standings.

2. Describe how these risks will be minimized.

The questions that we create for our participants to answer must not be ones that belittle anyone for lacking financial knowledge or security. The questions must be aimed at gathering information only.

3. If these risks are greater than those encountered in everyday activities (more than "minimal risk,") additional explanation is required

Are these risks greater than minimal risk? ___ Yes __**x**__ No. If yes, complete the following:

a) Explain how they are outweighed by the sum of the benefits to the individual subject and to the importance of the knowledge to be gained.

b) Discuss the alternative ways of conducting this research and why the one chosen is superior.

c) Explain fully how the **rights and welfare** of such subjects at risk will be protected (e.g., equipment closely monitored, psychological screening of prospective subjects, medical exam given prior to procedure).

G. BENEFITS

Benefits to the subjects must be weighed against foreseeable risks, and are to be distributed fairly among the community's population. Benefits may include anything health-related, psychosocial, or other direct value for individual subjects, or may yield generalizable knowledge that may further society's understanding of a disorder or condition. Compensation for participation is not a benefit.

1. Describe what you hope to learn from the study.

We hope to gain a better understanding on how college students' monetary confidence impacts their stress levels.

2. Who might find these results useful?

College students themselves, anyone related to a college student.

3. Describe direct benefits to the participants, if any?

Participants will benefit by reflecting on managing and sustaining their stress levels as well as managing their finances.

4. Explain how the benefits justify the associated risks.

The possibility of risk for this study is minimal. The research could possibly benefit any student who struggles with handling their own finances or personal stress.

IV. Checklist

Please complete this checklist to assure that all required components of your protocol have been included prior to submitting your protocol to your Departmental Representative. Incomplete protocols will be returned to the PI.

x Informed consent procedures/documentation, or the request for modification or waiver thereof, have been clearly explained. Appendix A is attached.

This project involves the following vulnerable populations:

Minors. Appendix B is attached.

Prisoners. Appendix C is attached.

Pregnant women, (where the condition of pregnancy is related to the study), human fetuses or neonates. Appendix D is attached.

Cognitively impaired individuals. Appendix E is attached.

Psychological interventions will be employed, such as contrived social situations, manipulation of the subject's attitudes, opinions or self-esteem, psychotherapeutic procedures, or other psychological influences. Appendix F is attached.

Elements of deception will be used. Appendix G is attached.

Biomedical procedures will be used. Appendix H is attached.

Audio recording, video recording, or still images will be used. Appendix I is attached.

International research will be conducted. Appendix J is attached.

Appendix A: Elements of Informed Consent

Federal regulations specify the required elements of informed consent. The regulations also allow for waiver or alteration of these elements under specific circumstances. If no waiver or alteration of the elements of informed consent has been requested, the informed consent procedures described in the protocol and consent documents must contain all of the elements listed below. Please mark "Yes" to indicate they are included in both the protocol and the consent documents, unless you have requested to waive or alter a particular element.

__**X**__ Yes 1. A statement that the study involves research

__**X**__ Yes 2. An explanation of the purposes of the research

__**X**__ Yes 3. The duration of the participant's participation

__**X**__ Yes 4. A description of procedures to be followed

__**x**__ Yes 5. A description of foreseeable risks or discomforts to the participant

__**x**__ Yes 6. A description of any benefits to the participants or any others that may be expected from the research

__**x**__ Yes 7. A statement describing the extent, if any, that confidentiality will be maintained

__**x**__ Yes 8. An explanation as to whom to contact concerning questions about the research; this should include the Principal Investigator's name and contact information. In addition, for questions about research participants' rights and/or a research related injury or adverse effects, list the Research Ethics & Compliance Office name and contact information: (309) 438-2529 and/or rec@ilstu.edu.

__**x**__ Yes 9. A statement that participation is voluntary

__**x**__ Yes 10. A statement that refusal to participate involves no penalty or loss of benefits

__**x**__ Yes 11. A statement that the subject may discontinue participation at any time without penalty or loss of benefits

If the IRB deems it appropriate, *additional elements* of informed consent may be required as follows:

- □ A statement that the particular treatment or procedure may involve risks to the subject (or to the embryo or fetus, if the subject is or may become pregnant) which are currently unforeseeable

- □ Anticipated circumstances under which the subject's participation may be terminated by the investigator without regard to the subject's consent

- □ Any additional costs to the subject that may result from participation in the research;
- □ The consequences of a subject's decision to withdraw from the research and procedures for orderly termination of participation by the subject
- □ A statement that significant new findings developed during the course of the research which may relate to the subject's willingness to continue participation will be provided to the subject
- □ The approximate number of subjects involved in the study

Informed Consent Document

If you decide to participate in our study, your participation will involve answering 15 questions focusing on your personal financial confidence and stress levels.

As a results of this survey, you may feel uncomfortable discussing your financial disposition. Stress levels may increase due to uncovering gaps in knowledge and confidence regarding financial standing . You may feel that your confidentiality is in danger; however, no information about your name or location will be collected, only information about school year and gender will be asked for.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. You may refuse to answer a question at any time and at your own discretion may choose to opt out of the study at any point.

While participation may offer you no direct benefit, you are assisting researchers in learning more about the relationship between stress and financial confidence. No compensation will be offered to participants.

If you have any questions about the study, please feel free to contact Jake Pearson at jdpears4@gmail.com. You may also contact George Bryant at gbryant1@asu.edu.

Sincerely,
Jake Pearson
Undergraduate Student, Hugh Downs School of Communication
Arizona State University
jdpears4@gmail.com

By continuing to the online survey, you acknowledge that you understand the above statements, are at least 18 years of age at the time of this survey, and choose to willingly participate in this study. If you do not agree with the above statement or are not at least 18 years of age and/or do not wish to participate in this study you make close the survey now.

E-mail Invitation

- Hello. You are invited to participate in student run research study regarding stress and personal finances. This study will be supervised by George Bryant of Arizona State University. Participation in this study is completely voluntary and will aim to connect personal stress and financial confiende.

Social Media Invitation

- Hello. You are invited to participate in student run research study regarding stress and personal finances. This study will be supervised by George Bryant of Arizona State University. Participation in this study is completely voluntary and will aim to connect personal stress and financial confiende.

Survey Questions/Protocol

How sure are you that, ONE YEAR FROM NOW, you will:

1. Be able to pay your tuition?

2. Be able to pay your rent?

3. Be able to pay your textbooks?

4. Have enough money to meet your expenses?

5. Have health insurance?

6. Have enough money to cover a major health issue?

7. Have your typical amount of savings?

8. Be able to maintain the same lifestyle you currently experience?

9. Have enough money to afford a well balanced diet?

Scale is based upon a 1 to 5 Likert-type scale with 1 being “very unsure” and 5 being “very sure.” There was also a column where participants could check which items were inapplicable. The items were then all reverse coded and the NA category was removed.

1. Learning new financial information does not worry me, I can understand it in no time.

2. I am anxious with my finances because, no matter how hard I try, I have trouble understanding it.

3. I do not worry when I hear new or unfamiliar words, I am confident that I can understand them.

4. I never feel tense when I have to speak about my financial situation.

5. I feel confident that I can easily discuss my financial knowledge in a conversation.

6. I get anxious when I have to speak about myself in front of an audience.

Scale is based upon a 1 to 5 Likert-type scale with 1 being “Highly Disagree” and 5 being “Highly Agree”. A score of 3 would be neutral representing no particular preference.