

<b>INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPATION IN STOPPED OUT TAMIU STUDENTS</b>
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**Title of Project:** Determining the causes for why students stop out at TAMIU

**Principal Investigator:** Ediza Garcia, Psy.D.

**Co-Principal Investigator:** Ken Tobin. Ph.D.

You are being asked to participate in a research study. If you decide to participate in this study, this form will also be used to record your consent. Your participation is entirely voluntary, and you can refuse to participate or withdraw at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. We are asking you to take part in a study focused on the reasons students stop out from their studies at Texas A&M International University (TAMIU). This project will increase the re-entry of stopped-out TAMIU students by identifying issues in the internal processes that result in the loss of students. You were selected to be a possible participant because you were/are a student at TAMIU who stopped out from their studies for a semester or longer, and you are over 18 years of age. Up to 500 people are expected to take part in this study. This study is being sponsored/funded by a grant from the Department of Education.

If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to complete a brief form exploring different reasons why you decided to stop your studies at TAMIU. Filling out this form takes about 5 minutes. We do not guarantee that you will benefit from participation. However, the information gathered may benefit future TAMIU students. The knowledge gained from this study may contribute to our understanding of the internal processes that result in the loss of students at TAMIU. **Your participation is voluntary.** You may decide not to participate or may discontinue participation in this project at any time, without loss of privilege or fear of retribution or evaluation by the experimenter, and without your current or future relations with Texas A&M International University being affected. You will receive compensation for participating in this study in the form of a \$20 gift card and there are no costs for you in participating in this study.

This study is anonymous. To track your information, you will be assigned a numeric code that will be used instead of any personally identifying characteristics. Your data will not contain anything connecting your identity with your information. The records of this study will be kept private. To receive the gift card, you will be redirected to a separate questionnaire in which you will submit your email. This will ensure your identifying information is not linked to your responses at any point. Research records will be stored securely in the Co-PI's server. All electronic files will be password-protected. People who have access to the records include the PI's Co-PIs, Research Reporting Analyst (Jacinto De La Cruz Hernandez) and Undergraduate Research Assistants (Carlos Vichareli and Miguel Ruiz). Representatives of regulatory agencies such as the Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP) and university or university system officials may access your records to ensure compliance. Your records may also be viewed by the Institutional Review Board. The data resulting from your participation may be used in publications and/or presentations but your identity will not be disclosed. Information about you and related to this study will be kept confidential to the extent permitted or required by law. In addition, while the information you provide is anonymous and confidential, this research study is

subject to the Open Records Act. A record is kept when compensation provided is funded by the university.

If you have questions now, you may ask the principal investigator (or representative staff). If you have questions later, you may the researchers conducting this study:

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Chair of Department of Psychology and Communication		
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This research study has been reviewed by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at Texas A&M International University. For questions regarding your rights as a research participant, or if you have complaints, concerns, or questions about the research, you can contact Dr. Elizabeth Terrazas-Carrillo (English), IRB Chair, 956-326-2656, [irb@tamiu.edu](mailto:irb@tamiu.edu), or Dr. Roberto Heredia (English/Spanish), 956-326-2637, [rheredia@tamiu.edu](mailto:rheredia@tamiu.edu).

Please be sure you have read the above information, asked questions and received answers to your satisfaction.

*I understand that my participation in this research project is VOLUNTARY, and that I may withdraw from participation at any time WITHOUT COST to myself. I freely choose to participate in this research project. I have read and understand the explanation provided to me. I have had all my questions answered to my satisfaction and I voluntarily agree to participate in this study. Please print or screen capture the information sheet, so you have a copy of the form.*