

Loyola Marymount University Informed Consent Form

TITLE:	PostCommit: AI Powered Code Reflections for CMSI Students
INVESTIGATOR:	Andrew Forney, andrew.forney@lmu.edu , Office: 310-338-3077
PURPOSE:	You are being asked to participate in a research project that seeks to investigate depth of code understanding in CMSI courses, ability for technical interview explanation, and correlations with course performance. This study is mediated through an app developed by LMU CMSI called PostCommit that will be used to provide AI-powered quizzes about code you submit during the course. Although all students will participate in these quizzes, your participation in the study portion of this feature is voluntary. If you elect to not participate in the study portion, there will be no repercussions; your data will simply be excluded from any disseminated results from the study. Note: you must be 18 years of age or older to participate in the research component of this study, although all students, regardless of age, will have access to PostCommit for its educational benefits. If you wish to participate, you will verify your age as part of the PostCommit registration process, below.
RISKS:	Because this study will examine your ability to answer technical questions about your submitted code, there is some mild risk of embarrassment from your performance or social comparison. Moreover, PostCommit employs Large Language Models (LLMs) to perform its code quizzing and assessment, which may result in falsehoods through hallucinations and other inaccuracies. A “report” button within the app will allow you to flag these for discovery by the experimenters. You are always free to access your quiz results outside of class and can discuss the results with your instructor. Lastly, because taking PostCommit quizzes is a component of the course grade, there may be a risk of perceived pressure to participate due to the power dynamics of the student-instructor relationship. Please note that you are under no obligation to participate in the research part of the study and that your class standing and grades will not be affected by your choice to participate and/or whether you choose to opt out of the study at any point after providing consent.
BENEFITS:	Participating in the PostCommit quizzes will strengthen the ties between your coding skills and conceptual knowledge as well as prepare you for technical interviews that expect thoughtful, plain-English explanations of your code. The results of the study in aggregate will help inform CMSI educators worldwide on the depth of understanding that students have of their code in the era of LLMs.

INCENTIVES: If you choose to participate, you will be entered into a raffle for 2 x \$50 Amazon gift cards. You are given 1 raffle ticket just for participating, and can earn additional tickets by providing high-quality answers to the PostCommit quiz questions (each that you answer with a score of 2 = Mastery).

CONFIDENTIALITY: Because PostCommit will collect your code repositories using your GitHub accounts, your usernames will be associated with your data BUT will never be used in any public dissemination of these data (publications, presentations, etc.). However, your in-class assignment and exam performance will be appended to this data during the analysis phase. Your real name and any personally identifying information will be *excluded* from any publication. All research materials and consent forms will be stored in a secure Supabase server / LMU's Box Drive to which only the experimenters have access, though you are free to review your PostCommit quiz results through your account on the student interface. When the research study ends, any identifying information will be removed from the analyzed data, or it will be destroyed. All of the information you provide will be kept confidential.

RIGHT TO WITHDRAW: Your participation in this study is *voluntary*. You may withdraw your consent to participate at any time without penalty. Your withdrawal will not influence any other services to which you may be otherwise entitled, your class standing or relationship with Loyola Marymount University.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS: A summary of the results of this research will be supplied to you, at no cost, upon request. Sometime following the Fall 2026 semester, you may email Prof. Andrew Forney <andrew.forney@lmu.edu>, office 310-338-3077 for the findings.

VOLUNTARY CONSENT: I have read the above statements and understand what is being asked of me. I understand that artifacts that I generate for the course will be used by the experimenters during the study, including my submitted code, assignment, and exam performance. I also understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw my consent at any time, for any reason, without penalty. If the study design or use of the information is changed I will be informed and my consent reobtained. On these terms, I certify that I am willing to participate in this research project.

I understand that if I have any further questions, comments or concerns about the study or the informed consent process, I may contact Dr. Steve Heller, Institutional Review Board, Loyola Marymount University, 1 LMU Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90045-2659 or by email at irb@lmu.edu.