

# Web Portal Interaction Research

Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering, Needham, Ma 02492  
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Our names are *Adam College, Douglas Ellwanger, Jeremy Freeman, and Jonathan Tse*. We are students at Olin College of Engineering studying *college students, specifically Olin College students*, for a class on Human Factors and Interface Design. **Contact Information Removed.**

We are studying *how students use web portals, including what content they need in a portal (both academic and otherwise), and how they interact with and obtain relevant information from online sources*. Over the course of the semester we will be investigating current systems and practices and designing a prototype system that we hope may provide a better interface than existing ones. Early in the semester, we will be observing and interviewing current users. Later in the semester we will be asking users to help us test our prototype system, again through observation and interview.

The results of this research including field notes, records and photos that you or we take will be used for educational and research purposes. They will be placed on an Olin College educational website that is public and may be used in presentations by us and by Olin to illustrate the work that we do and/or to help advance engineering or educational work.

We hope this would be a fun and interesting process for you. We do not anticipate that there would be any unusual risks or discomforts to you as a participant in this project. We would take every reasonable effort to keep your identity confidential. For instance, we would not use your real name in research notes, course assignments or presentations. Please do not disclose any information that you feel would put you at risk.

Participation is voluntary. You may discontinue your participation at any time without any adverse effects and with no hard feelings.

There will be no costs associated with your participation. We regret that we cannot pay you for your participation. If you have any questions or concerns about the project, please contact our professor or us. Our professor is Lynn Andrea Stein, Professor of Computer and Cognitive Science. She can be reached at 781 292 2525 or by email at [□ las@olin.edu](mailto:las@olin.edu).

**Important Note: *This project has gone through a mock-IRB process designed specifically to educate students on the human subjects review process. This human subjects review process is not endorsed by an official Institutional Review Board (IRB). It does not constitute formal human subjects review certification.***