

## **INFORMED CONSENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH ACTIVITIES**

Thank you for agreeing to participate in our survey.

Before we start, we'd like for you to read the informed consent information below. Informed consent refers to the voluntary choice of an individual to participate in research based on an accurate and complete understanding of its purposes, procedures, risks, benefits, and alternatives. The survey data will be completely **confidential**. Data from each student, instructor, and institution will be anonymized. If you have any questions before completing this survey, please contact the investigator Dr. Alan Sherman by phone at 410 455-2666, 410 963-4779, or by email at [sherman@umbc.edu](mailto:sherman@umbc.edu).

### **Informed consent:**

You must be 18 years or older to participate in this survey.

The purpose of this study is to provide infrastructure for rigorous evidence-based improvement of cybersecurity education by developing the first Cybersecurity Assessment Tools (CATs) targeted at measuring the quality of instruction, which can help universities better prepare the substantial number of cybersecurity professionals needed in America. You are being asked to volunteer because you are in or have completed cybersecurity courses. It will take up to two hours to complete this survey.

We are developing the Cybersecurity Curriculum Assessment (CCA) in hopes of creating a nationally recognized, research-based assessment tool for measuring how well students use adversarial thinking after completing a program of study in cybersecurity. The CCA will help us identify best practices for preparing future cybersecurity professionals. To verify whether the CCA will meet these goals, we are asking you to answer each of the questions on the survey.

There are no known risks involved in completing the survey. There are no tangible benefits for completing the survey, but you will have access to all results and project activities on the web site - <http://www.cisa.umbc.edu/cats/index.html>.

Participation is entirely voluntary; you may withdraw from participation at any time. If you withdraw from this research study, you will not be penalized in any way for deciding to stop participating.

All data obtained will be confidential. Results from this research will be published in academic conferences and journals, but no personally identifying information will ever be associated with your performance or shared.

This study has been reviewed and approved by the UMBC Institutional Review Board (IRB). A representative of that Board, from the Office for Research Protections and Compliance, is available to discuss the review process or my rights as a research participant. Contact information of the Office is (410) 455-2737 or [compliance@umbc.edu](mailto:compliance@umbc.edu).

**If you agree to the terms of this informed consent, please signify your consent by clicking the checkbox "I Consent" below, clicking "Save", and then clicking the "Next" button on the right in order to start the survey. If you'd like to leave the survey at any time, just close your browser tab.**

I Consent