



AUBURN  
UNIVERSITY

RAYMOND J. HARBERT  
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

DEPARTMENT OF SYSTEMS & TECHNOLOGY

(NOTE: DO NOT AGREE TO PARTICIPATE UNLESS AN IRB APPROVAL STAMP  
WITH CURRENT DATES HAS BEEN APPLIED TO THIS DOCUMENT.)

INFORMATION LETTER

For a Research Study entitled

*Evaluating Forecasting Calibration Training*

**You are invited to participate in a research study** to assess forecasting calibration training by forecasting 2019 SEC football games. This study is conducted by Ross Gruetzemacher, PhD candidate, under the direction of Dr. David Paradice, Harbert Eminent Scholar in the Auburn University College of Business, Department of Systems & Technology. You're invited to participate as an AU business school upperclassman or graduate student age 18 or older.

**What will be involved if you participate?** If you decide to participate you will be asked to participate in a brief training program (~15-45 minutes) and to participate in a forecasting exercise for 2019 SEC football games (~15 minutes).

The study will involve five separate treatment groups:

1. A control group who will receive no calibration training.
2. A half-length generic calibration training group that involves a single training module on generic topics that include 60 quick questions with a 30 second time limit.
3. A full-length generic calibration training group that involves two training modules on generic topics that include 120 quick questions with a 30 second time limit.
4. A half-length topic-specific (i.e. SEC football) calibration training group that involves a single training module on generic topics that include 60 quick questions with a 30 second time limit.
5. A full-length topic-specific (i.e. SEC football) calibration training group that involves two training modules on generic topics that include 120 quick questions with a 30 second time limit.

Four of these treatment groups involve calibration training. Calibration training involves answering questions that either have a yes or no answer with a probability (i.e. level of confidence). If you don't know the answer then you assign 50% probability and your score is zero. If you think the answer is yes or true, you assign a score over 50% and if you think the answer is false you assign a score below 50%. The training module questions are the same format as the way you will forecast the outcome of the football games. If you think a team will win you will assign a probability of greater than 50% chance and if you think they'll lose, you'll assign a probability of less than 50%.

When you click the link at the bottom of this page to begin the study you will be directed to the calibration training module. Here you will be prompted to sign up with your email address. Doing so will assign you to one of the five treatment groups. You will then complete the training for your required treatment group. Following the 4<sup>th</sup> week of the 2019 NCAA football season and once your assigned calibration training is complete, you will be sent an email with a link for you to forecast the next weeks' SEC football games. Weekly emails will be sent to obtain your forecasts until the end of the season.

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**Are there any risks or discomforts?** No.

**Will you receive compensation for participating?** To thank you for your time all participants will be offered a \$15 virtual Visa card as compensation. Participants performing in the top 50% will receive a \$30 virtual Visa card for compensation and participants performing in the top 10% will receive a \$50 virtual Visa card for compensation.

**If you change your mind about participating,** you can withdraw at any time and your data will be deleted immediately.

**Any data obtained in connection with this study will remain confidential.** We will protect your privacy by encrypting the data and deleting it after publication of the study. Information collected will be analyzed and may be published or presented in academic research outlets.

**If you have questions about this study,** *please ask them now* or e-mail us later at [rossg@auburn.edu](mailto:rossg@auburn.edu) or [dparadice@auburn.edu](mailto:dparadice@auburn.edu).

**If you have questions about your rights as a research participant,** you may contact the Auburn University Office of Research Compliance or the Institutional Review Board by phone (334)-844-5966 or e-mail at [IRBAdmin@auburn.edu](mailto:IRBAdmin@auburn.edu) or [IRBChair@auburn.edu](mailto:IRBChair@auburn.edu).

HAVING READ THE INFORMATION PROVIDED, YOU MUST DECIDE IF YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS RESEARCH PROJECT. IF YOU DECIDE TO PARTICIPATE, THE DATA YOU PROVIDE WILL SERVE AS YOUR AGREEMENT TO DO SO. THIS LETTER IS YOURS TO KEEP.

If you decide to participate [CLICK HERE](#) to be directed to the study.

The Auburn University Institutional  
Review Board has approved this  
Document for use from  
08/23/2019 to -----  
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