



Title:	Trainee or Student Projects Involving Human Subjects Research		
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1 Student Research

1.1 Human Subject Research and Course Projects

Learning how to conduct ethical human subject research is an important part of a student's educational experience. Research activities that are designed as part of a course requirement for purposes of learning experience only and are not "designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge" may not require IRB review.

When IRB review is not required, the IRB recommends the following parameters for student research:

- Results of the research are viewed only by the course instructor for teaching purposes and discussed within the classroom for teaching and learning purposes.
- Results of the research are not made public through presentation (outside of the classroom) and are not published in paper or electronic format (e.g., available on the internet, journal publication, etc.).
- Research procedures are no more than minimal risk.
- Vulnerable populations are not targeted (e.g., children under age 18, prisoners, persons who are cognitively impaired, etc.).
- Data collected are recorded in such a manner that the subjects are not identifiable (images in videotapes and photographs and voices on audiotape are identifiable).
- When appropriate, an informed consent process is in place.

1.2 Responsibility of the Course Instructor:

The course instructor is responsible for communicating to the students the ethics of human subject research, for ensuring the protection of human subjects (including a process is in place for obtaining voluntary informed consent from research subjects when appropriate), and for monitoring the students' progress.

When designing a project, students should be instructed on the ethical conduct of research and on the preparation of the IRB application when such is required. In particular, instructors and students should:

- Understand the elements of informed consent;
- Develop appropriate consent documents;

- Plan appropriate strategies for recruiting subjects;
- Identify and minimize potential risks to subjects;
- Assess the risk-benefit ratio for the project;
- Establish and maintain strict guidelines for protecting privacy and confidentiality, and
- Allow sufficient time for IRB review (if necessary) and completion of the project.

In making a determination of whether or not a class research project requires IRB review, the instructor is encouraged to contact the IRB office for assistance.

1.3 Student or trainee honors projects, theses and dissertations

Student or trainee research projects in the form of directed or independent research, such as theses, dissertations and honors research projects, are generally research intended to contribute to generalizable knowledge. When they involve human subjects, these projects require IRB review, as with any human subject research (See Appendix C).

1.4 Student or trainee human subjects projects (class projects)

Class human subject research projects (not for thesis or dissertation) are often designed primarily to educate students in research techniques or issues, without an expectation of contributing to generalizable knowledge. However, since the lines between educational goals and research are sometimes difficult to demarcate, and class projects may still (either directly or through data about them) involve living persons, class projects may expose individual subjects to the same risks as research intended for broader purposes. Furthermore, since a major goal of a class project should be to educate students in the process of human subjects research, instructors should make every effort to make the research process as realistic as possible.

1.5 Training of student researchers

Trainees must complete the human research education training required for all University research team members, or a tailored package deemed appropriate by the IRB, in consultation with the instructor. Instructors should actively instruct the students in the application of ethical principles and regulations as they apply to the class project, including, but not limited to, respect for persons as it translates into informed consent, courtesy, avoidance of unnecessary discomfort, and protection of privacy.

Students and advisors should contact the IRB Office with any questions.