Classroom Projects Involving Human Subjects

Terms

- Research is defined as “a systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge....” 45 CFR 46.102(d)
- A human subject is defined as “a living individual about whom an investigator (whether professional or student) conducting research obtains: 1) Data through intervention or interaction with the individual, or 2) Identifiable private information” 45CFR46.102(f)

Review Procedures

- Classroom projects that are designed with the objective of providing students with training about and experience with human subject research do not require IRB review if the following conditions are met:
  - The activity is designed for learning purposes only
  - Results of the research are not presented outside of the classroom
  - Data collection procedures present no more than minimal risk to the subjects
  - Vulnerable populations (children, prisoners, cognitively impaired) are not used
  - Data is collected in a manner that the subjects are not identifiable
- Classroom projects that are designed with the objective of having students present data collected from human subjects at a department, school, or college symposium require only submission of an IRB waiver form if the following conditions are met:
  - Results of the research are not presented outside of the University setting
  - Data collection procedures present no more than minimal risk to the subjects
  - Vulnerable populations (children, prisoners, cognitively impaired) are not used
  - Data is collected in a manner that the subjects are not identifiable
  - An informed consent process is in place
- Classroom projects that involve systematic collection of data from human subjects for which the objective is to present the results outside of the University setting (state, regional, or national conferences), and/or the data collection procedures do not meet the conditions listed previously, then the projects must be submitted to the IRB for determination of review and approval prior to data collection.

Responsibilities for Course Instructors

- Instructors have the primary responsibility for ensuring that human subjects are treated ethically.
- Instructors must communicate to students about ethical principles for the protection of human subjects. This includes providing students with training about human subject research through the CITI training course.
- Instructors are responsible for guiding their students, and for making the determination regarding submitting materials to the IRB.
- Students must submit a copy of any survey instruments or interview questions to the course instructor for review.
- Instructors should contact an IRB Coordinator with any questions regarding a project.