IRB Statement on Class Projects Involving Human Subject Research

With the recent emphasis placed on “Engaged Learning” at Utah Valley University, more and more faculty members are incorporating practical application assignments into their course curriculums. These assignments may include research type activities where students participate in data collection and reporting of data garnered from interaction with human subject participants.

Learning how to conduct ethical research is a vital part of a student’s educational experience, especially when human subjects are involved. To facilitate this process, and to ensure the ethical and safe treatment of human participants in these types of activities, the Institutional Review Board provides the following guidelines:

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 project 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

If the intent of the classroom project is to present the information at a department, school, or college symposium, or involves participants outside of the classroom, and it meets the following conditions, then an IRB waiver would be required. The IRB waiver form is available at http://www.uvu.edu/irb.

- 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

Any classroom project involving human subjects that falls outside of these conditions would require a standard IRB application to be submitted.

Responsibilities of Course Instructors

- Course Instructors have the primary responsibility for ensuring that human subjects are treated ethically.
- Course instructors must communicate to students about ethical principles for the protection of human subjects, which may include the CITI training course (available on the IRB website).
- 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.
- Course instructors should contact the IRB (irb@uvu.edu or 801-863-8156) with any questions regarding classroom projects.