

IRB PROCEDURE STATEMENT

Procedure: Class Research Projects

Procedure ID: 02-10-002

Effective: October 2, 2002

Revised: January 17, 2019

A. Background

Bowling Green State University's Institutional Review Board (IRB) recognizes that many instructors require projects that involve research with human participants to fulfill course requirements. If a project meets the federal definitions of "research" (45 CFR 46.106(l)) **AND** "human subject" (45 CFR 46.102(e(1))), the project must be reviewed by the IRB.

Pilot studies require IRB review. Therefore, if the project has the potential to become a thesis or dissertation project, the project must be reviewed and approved by the IRB prior to beginning work.

Examples of projects that do not need IRB approval are:

- Evaluations of various programs for which the results will be used to make improvements to the program in question.
- Projects that are designed to teach students how to do research (e.g., in research methods courses). However, participants must be informed that the purpose of the work is to learn how to do research.
- Observation of public behavior where the observer does not actively manipulate others or the environment in any way.
- Observations of classroom behavior or behavior in a natural learning environment for purposes of evaluation or for learning about teaching and learning.

Even though IRB approval may not be required for some class projects, ethical considerations require that potential participants be informed regarding the purpose of the project and how data will be used. The instructor is responsible to familiarize students with these considerations.

B. Definitions

Research is "a systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge."

Class Project Guidelines

A human subject is “a living individual about whom an investigator (whether professional or student) conducting research (1) obtains information or biospecimens through intervention or interaction with the individual and uses, studies, or analyzes the information or biospecimens; or (2) obtains, uses, studies, analyzes, or generates identifiable private information or identifiable biospecimens.”

C. Procedure

1. If there is any doubt as to whether a project or set of projects should be reviewed by the IRB, please contact the Office of Research Compliance at 419-372-7716 for assistance.
2. A formal determination as to whether the project requires IRB approval can only be made by the Research Compliance Officer, via the Review Determination Form available on IRBNet (Procedure ID 13-08-002).
3. If IRB approval is required, the Initial Review of IRB Applications - Exempt Projects procedure (ID 13-07-001), Initial Review of IRB Applications - Expedited Projects procedure (ID 13-08-001), or Initial Review of IRB Applications - Full Board Projects procedure (ID 02-11-003) must be followed.