

UNIVERSITY OF AKRON GUIDELINES FOR CLASSROOM-BASED PROTOCOLS UTILIZING HUMAN SUBJECTS

The Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the Protection of Human Subjects recognizes that many student research projects conducted to fulfill course requirements involve human subjects. Such research occasionally entails certain risks to the subjects involved. As students vary in expertise regarding research procedures designed to protect the rights of human subjects, the IRB has developed the following guidelines regarding classroom-based research projects. These guidelines are intended to provide clarification and simplify the process for obtaining IRB approval for classroom-based research projects.

For classroom-based projects for which the subjects are **not**

- identifiable by name or description (i.e. data are completely anonymous); or
- drawn from vulnerable populations;

and the subject matter is not **sensitive** as noted below, faculty and instructors should submit the *Application for Classroom-Based Research* to the IRB prior to the beginning of classes in order to obtain approval for classroom-based research protocols using human subjects.

Please note that all subjects must provide informed consent when participating in any protocol submitted under this Guideline. In order to protect subject anonymity, the IRB recommends use of passive informed consent procedures when developing protocols for use under this Guideline. Passive informed consent is defined as informing the prospective subject about the research to be performed but not requiring the subject to sign and return a consent form. This information can be provided to the subject verbally or in a descriptive information sheet. In addition, the prospective subject should be offered the opportunity to decline participation. Subjects should **not** be required to sign an informed consent form in order to protect their anonymity. See the guidelines for informed consent for additional information.

WHEN IS THE REGULAR IRB APPLICATION REQUIRED?

Student researchers who want to investigate opinions, behaviors, and/or experiences of human subjects in sensitive topic areas must submit a regular IRB application. Sensitive topics include:

sexual orientation; AIDS or HIV; incest, rape or date rape, sexual molestation; substance use and/or abuse; eating disorders or behaviors; contraception, pregnancy or abortion; questions dealing with subjects' mental health; religious orientation and /or views; veteran or wartime experiences; or illegal activities.

Finally, student researchers must file a regular IRB application for any protocol that systematically targets human subjects from a potentially vulnerable or sensitive group and asks questions regarding their opinion, behavior or experiences. Vulnerable or sensitive groups include:

Children; persons who abuse illegal substances; cognitively impaired persons; prisoners/arrestees; traumatized or comatose patients; persons seeking emergency treatment; institutionalized persons; persons geographically located outside the U.S.; and terminally ill persons.

**UNIVERSITY OF AKRON INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD
APPLICATION FOR CLASSROOM-BASED RESEARCH**

Submit this fully-signed document and attachment(s) electronically to irb@uakron.edu. Keep a copy for your files. For questions, contact the IRB via email at irb@uakron.edu or call 330-972-7666.

Instructor Assurance:

I certify that the policies regarding the utilization of human subjects in research will be reviewed with all students involved in this course prior to the beginning of all classroom-based projects. I will exercise proper instructor supervision to ensure student compliance with University policies for the protection of human subjects. I understand that this Application covers only student research projects that do not sample vulnerable populations and do not attempt to obtain information about sensitive topics as noted in the Guidelines for Classroom-Based Protocols Utilizing Human Subjects. If a student researcher wishes to conduct a protocol that 1) contains sensitive subject matter; or 2) samples vulnerable subjects, I will direct the student to submit to the IRB the application form for research involving human subjects.

I also certify that I have complied with the following requirement for human subjects training:

I have completed the CITI Core Modules for social and behavioral research.

Course Instructor: _____

Department: _____

Course Title: _____

Course/Section ID: _____ Semester/Year: _____

Instructor Signature: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE ATTACH YOUR SYLLABUS, HIGHLIGHTING THE COURSE ASSIGNMENTS THAT INVOLVE HUMAN SUBJECTS AND A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF TYPICAL CLASSROOM-BASED PROTOCOL ACTIVITIES.

IRB Approval _____

Date _____