IRB Policy on Student Research Conducted as Part of a Course Assignment

For the purposes of this policy *class assignments* are:

* Conducted for fulfillment of a class requirement.
* Completed within a single semester.
* Designed to teach research methods through conducting a research project where students interact with human participants or participant data to enhance learning about the concepts covered in the course.
* Not intended for scholarly publication or other dissemination.

When a student class assignment meets the specifications above, the research does not fit the Common Rule definition of research (45 CFR 46.102 (l)). Therefore, these student class assignments do not require IRB application, approval, or oversight.

Note, however, that instructors should carefully ensure that students understand the potential for harm when conducting research with human participants and their data. It is recommended that students be required to take the free-of-charge research ethics trainings provided through the IRB.

Risk to participants is heightened when data is collected about sensitive topics (e.g., sexual activity, use of alcohol or illegal drugs, or involvement in illegal activities).  Risks may also be greater when participants are minors, pregnant women, prisoners, or people who are otherwise vulnerable. When this is the case, consultation with the IRB Chair or Cochair is recommended.

If, after the data are collected, faculty decide the study merits publication he/she/they *may not use that data.* Instead, he/she/they must apply for IRB approval of a separate study to collect data intended for dissemination.

***Instructions for Obtaining an IRB Waiver for Student Research Conducted as Part of a Course Assignment***:

1. If the faculty member does not have and IRBNet account, one should be obtained. The IRB Website contains a “Guidance” for how to create an account and how to use IRBNet.
2. Complete the Request for Waiver form (found in the Appendix to this document, and as a freestanding form on IRBNet).
3. Create a new “Project” within your IRBNet account.
   1. Title the project, “Application for a Waiver for Student Research Conducted as Part of a Course Assignment.”
   2. Upload the Waiver form as a document for the new project.
   3. Label the uploaded document as an “Application Form.”
   4. Upload your CITI ethics training certificates. The IRB Website and IRBNet contain a “Guidance” for acquiring ethics training.
   5. Sign the package.

**Appendix**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Barry University  **IRB Waiver for Student Research Conducted as Part of a Course Assignment**  *Updated February of 2023*  Barry University’s Federalwide Assurance for the protection of human subjects prohibits the initiation of data collection with human participants that has not been reviewed and approved, exempted, or waived by the IRB. | | | |
| **FACULTY INSTRUCTOR** | | | |
| Name: | | | |
| Department: | Phone: | Email: | |
| **COURSE INFORMATION** | | | |
| Course Level (Graduate, Undergraduate, Other): | | | |
| Course Name: | Course Code: |  | |
| Have you submitted this course previously for review:   * Yes * No | | | If Yes, please provide the IRB protocol #: |
| **RESEARCH INFORMATION** | | | |
| Do you intend to share the results of the project outside the classroom?   * Yes * No If yes, where: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | | | |
| Does the project involve any of the following Vulnerable/Special Populations?   * Minors (under 18) * Pregnant Women * Prisoners * Physical or Mental Disability * Diminished capacity to give consent * None of the above | | | |
| Does the project involve categories of sensitive information?   * Information relating to sexual attitudes, preferences or practices * Information relating to the use of alcohol, drugs or other addictive products * Information pertaining to illegal conduct * Information that if released could reasonably damage an individual’s financial standing, employability, or reputation within the community * Information that would normally be recorded in a patient’s medical records which could reasonably lead to social stigmatization or discrimination * Information pertaining to an individual’s psychological wellbeing or mental health * Genetic information * None of the above | | | |
| As a result of participating in the study, are research participants exposed to risks that are greater than experienced in everyday life:   * Yes * No | | | |
| Please provide a description of the assignment with sufficient detail for the IRB to determine whether the criteria for a waiver are met. | | | |