

IRB: Resource Over Roadblock

Presented by: Sierra Smith



The University of Oklahoma

Topics

- Role of the IRB
- Guiding Principles for Review
- Activity: Find and Mitigate the Risk
- Online Submission Process
- Resources Available
- Q&A



Mission Statement

- The mission of the OU Office of Human Research Participant Protection (HRPP) and Institutional Review Board (IRB) is to **protect the rights, privacy, and welfare of all human participants** in research projects conducted by OU faculty, staff, and students, or otherwise conducted under its oversight.
- Our mission is also to help you navigate this process and understand the requirements.



Who Are We?

Office of Human Research Participant Protection (HRPP)

- HRPP Staff
 - Sierra Smith – Director
 - Vacant – Quality Improvement/Education Coordinator
 - Nicole Cunningham – IRB Administrator
 - Teresa “Shelly” Smith – Staff Assistant



Who Are We?

Institutional Review Board (IRB)

- Board Chairs & Vice Chairs
 - Board 1: Dr. Aimee Franklin – Chair
Dr. Ioana Cionea – Vice Chair
 - Board 2: Dr. Lara Mayeux – Chair
Dr. Fred Beard – Vice Chair



Guiding Principles for Review

Does it require IRB review?

- What kind of data is being collected?
 - Is the data from living human subjects?
 - Is the data about the participants?
- What is the purpose of the project?
 - Will the data be published or presented publicly?
 - Will results be analyzed or compared to contribute to generalizable knowledge?



Guiding Principles for Review

Required Training

- If we determine that your project does require IRB approval, you must complete the online training modules.
 - Collaborative IRB Training Initiative (CITI) online modules
 - Only the Social/Behavioral Modules are required
 - It will be free to register for the training, and can be taken in more than one sitting
 - It **SHOULD** update automatically within the iRIS site, but it usually does not



Guiding Principles for Review

- Risks
 - Risks must be minimized where possible.
 - Risks must be reasonable in relation to anticipated benefits.
- Participant Inclusion
 - Selection of participants must be equitable.
 - Extra protections must be in place for vulnerable populations.
- Informed Consent
 - Informed consent must be sought from each participant.
 - Informed consent must be appropriately documented.
- Privacy and Confidentiality
 - There must be adequate provisions to protect participants' privacy.
 - There must be adequate provisions for maintaining participant data.



Guiding Principles for Review

Exempt

- No expiration – no continuing review required
- Reviewed by one IRB Chair or Vice Chair
- No risk to participants – surveys, interviews, benign behavioral interventions

Expedited

- One year approval – continuing review or check-in required for further approval
- Reviewed by one IRB Chair or Vice Chair
- Minimal risk to participants – children, non-invasive clinical procedures

Full Board

- One year approval – continuing review required for further approval
- Reviewed by Full Board Committee
- Potentially greater than minimal risk to participants – direct deception, sensitive topics, vulnerable populations



Activity: Find and Mitigate the Risk!

Study Example #1

The researcher is a graduate student in Education who works full-time as a 9th grade Mathematics teacher at a local school. She wants to introduce a new game to her students that she anticipates will enhance their learning of the material. Upon completing the game, she wants to survey the students on their experiences with the game, and use their grades as research data. She plans to obtain student assent and parental permission for the surveys and classroom data.



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Activity: Find and Mitigate the Risk!

Study Example #2

An OU researcher has been asked by a local firm to conduct interviews with their employees to measure job satisfaction and areas for improvement within the company. The researcher plans to audio-record the interviews for ease in note-taking. The firm's administrators have asked to receive a copy of the results and the researcher plans to generalize the findings for publication. Participants will sign a consent form prior to the interview.



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Activity: Find and Mitigate the Risk!

Study Example #3

A faculty member in Psychology is recruiting students to participate in a lab experiment designed to measure the influence of feedback on perceived self-worth. Participants are told that the study is meant to test their efficiency in completing an online task. Upon entering the lab and consenting, they are asked to complete a number of surveys – one of which measures perceived self-worth. They are then given instructions for a task and asked to complete it online. Regardless of how successful they are in completing the task, they are broken into one of four groups: Group A receives negative feedback online; Group B receives negative feedback in person; Group C receives positive feedback online; and Group D receives positive feedback in person. They are then asked to complete the survey instruments again and may leave when they have finished.



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Online Submission Process

Integrated Research Information System (iRIS)

- Log in with your OU 4x4 and password (case-sensitive)
- Online application with section for attachments
- Smart Form – Branches according to your research design
- Sends email updates to your OU email address
- Walk-through guidance available on the IRB website for almost anything you want to do in iRIS
- Accessibility Requirements – Download and install the Cisco VPN software



Resources Available

- Contact us directly
 - (405) 325-8110
 - IRB@ou.edu
- Website
 - <http://irb.ou.edu>
 - Select “Norman Campus”
- Trainings
 - We offer one-on-one, group, classroom, and departmental trainings!



Questions?



The University of Oklahoma