



IRB Overview

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What is IRB?

- An independent committee established to review and approve research involving human subjects.
- Primary purpose of the IRB is to protect the rights and welfare of the human subjects.
 - Informed consent is an important component.

Students and faculty planning to do research involving human subjects need to submit an application to the IRB and receive IRB approval before they can start recruiting subjects or collecting any data, or they may not be able to use those data in their research.



What is human subjects research?

- ▶ Generally, a project is human subjects research if:
 - ▶ the researcher obtains data through interacting with one or more people, or
 - ▶ The researcher obtains identifiable private information
 - ▶ Three criteria constitute research:
 - ▶ Does the research contribute to the generalizable knowledge?
 - ▶ Was the research planned/designed in advance?
 - ▶ Does the research use a designed/systematic approach?
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IRB Review Process

- There are three levels of IRB Review:
 - full board review
 - expedited review, and
 - exempt from continuing IRB review.
- The level of review is determined by the level of potential risk to human subjects and the vulnerability of the subject population (e.g., children, pregnant women, prisoners, etc.).



IRB Review Process

- Regardless of the level of review, researchers submit the same application form.
- Those proposing to conduct medical research are required to also complete WCU's Medical Treatment Supplemental Application
- After submitting an IRB application, the IRB reviewer may contact the primary investigator for clarity or additional information.
- Amount of time for IRB to review an application depends on the level of review and revisions needed to protocol/application.



Role of Faculty Research Advisor

- ▶ In a nutshell, VERY IMPORTANT!
 - ▶ In addition to content expertise, your faculty research advisor should provide ethical research guidance as you conduct your research.
 - ▶ Faculty research advisors also have a role in helping you carry out your study in compliance as stated in the IRB application.
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Preparing for the IRB Process and Review

- ▶ First step is to take the online Human Research Ethics training called CITI, which will introduce the IRB's rationale and process.
- ▶ Review your IRB application to determine if the application is clear and thoroughly addresses your research, especially as it relates to human participants.
- ▶ If application is not clear or complete, the review process will require that you resubmit and will be more time-consuming.



More Info About WCU's IRB

- ▶ Visit the WCU Website

- ▶ <https://wmcarey.edu/office/institutional-review-board>