

IRB And Class Projects

The Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the Protection of Human Subjects provides flexibility in the level of review for classroom research/student research projects when all of the following conditions are met.

Student research projects that meet **ALL** of these conditions may be conducted under the supervision of the faculty member without submitting a protocol to the IRB. Projects that do not meet all of these conditions must be submitted to the IRB for review.

1. The project must meet the definition of classroom research/student research. This is defined as a project that
 1. Is a normal part of the student's coursework.
 2. Is supervised by a faculty member.
 3. Has as its primary purpose the development of the student's research skills.
 4. Does not present more than minimal risk to participants or to the student investigator.
 5. Does not include any persons as research subjects under the age of 18.
 6. Does not include any persons as research subjects who are classified as protected populations or sensitive subjects according to Federal regulations.
 7. Is not genuine research and will not result in a degree culminating product (e.g., thesis, dissertation), publication or some other form of public dissemination (e.g., presentation at conferences including the undergraduate/graduate scholars forum).
 8. Does not involve sensitive, personal, or incriminating topics.
 9. Would be eligible for review at the Exempt or Expedited level.

2. Student research projects must meet all the criteria for an Exempt or Expedited Review as defined in the IRB Guidelines. Please see the [UB Exemption Determination Tool](#) and other helpful documents under the Documents and Forms section of the [UB IRB Website](#). If the faculty member has concerns or doubts, he/she should consult with the chair of the IRB (Please email irb@ubalt.edu with any inquiries). The faculty member or student researcher may also request a formal review by the IRB of any student research project prior to beginning the research project.

3. Projects approved as "classroom research" are viewed as being outside of the federal definition for human subjects' research. As such, these projects do not have formal IRB approval and thus **MAY NOT** be presented at local, state, national or international conferences, published, or used for thesis/dissertation projects. If a student believes they may wish to present or publish their work at a future point, the student must submit a regular IRB protocol and have it reviewed accordingly. Please note, no one should seek IRB approval for projects after the fact.

4. Faculty teaching research methods and overseeing student research projects are expected to understand the philosophy, ethics, and practice of protecting human subjects in research; to adhere to these principles during the conduct and supervision of classroom research projects; and to teach these practices and principles to students. Faculty will be responsible for ensuring that all student research projects are conducted in accordance with federal regulations and principles regarding protection of human subjects in research.

5. Faculty who want to supervise classroom research projects must complete the CITI Computer-Based Training module located on the web; see [CITI Training - Account Creation and Affiliation instructions](#).

6. Information about classroom research projects must be forwarded to the IRB Chair by email, at irb@ubalt.edu , ***before any research is conducted***. Information should include the professor's name, the course name and number, the names of all the students completing a classroom project, the titles of all research projects that will be conducted as classroom research, and a two-three sentence description of each project. Additionally, the faculty member should attach their CITI completion certificate.