

IRB Policy #:	220
Policy Title:	<i>Levels of Review</i>
Date Approved:	
Date Reviewed:	

Purpose: To establish three levels of protocol review.

Policy:

Research projects shall be reviewed at one of three levels, depending on the IRB Chair’s or designee’s interpretation of the project’s risk to the human subjects, in accordance with the Federal guidelines that define the categories of review: exempt, expedited, and full board review.

Research means a systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation designed to contribute to generalizable knowledge. Class research demonstrations and projects that are not intended to contribute to generalizable knowledge are not required to be reviewed by the IRB. Results generated by such projects should not be published or presented in a public forum.

Regular courses, research methods courses, and even service-learning components of courses that use individual or group projects that engage people from outside that particular class may need IRB approval. Any of the following conditions requires IRB review:

- If the interaction with people involves record keeping (e.g., field notes, survey responses) that will be stored and may be used in future for publications by the student(s) or professor.
- If any part of the work will be presented orally or in print to any audience larger than the enrollment of that particular class. This includes projects presented to or available to non-class members.
- If the activity is entirely pedagogical, does not meet the definition of research (the gathering of evidence to report such findings to anyone outside the classroom), but carries unusual risks such as:
 - observations of or interviews of people on illegal or unusually sensitive subjects (e.g., immigrant status; drugs; pornography);
 - deceptions, by having students present themselves to non-class members as something they are not;
 - norm violations, having the students transgress the norms of a group

in order to observe the group's response (e.g., having students pose as same-sex couples at a church activity where the said church forbids homosexuality; ventures into risky venues (e.g., events sponsored by hate groups such as the KKK).