

IRB Policy #:	110
Policy Title:	<i>Requirements for Acting as a Principal Investigator</i>
Date Approved:	March 12, 2021
Date Reviewed:	

Purpose: This policy will define the required credentials to serve as a Principal Investigator for research projects using human subjects.

Definitions:

Investigator: The HHS regulations at 45 CFR part 46 use the term “investigator” to refer to an individual performing various tasks related to the conduct of human subjects research activities, such as obtaining informed consent from subjects, interacting with subjects, and communicating with the IRB¹.

Principal Investigator: One investigator is designated the “principal investigator” with overall responsibilities for the study². The Principal Investigator is responsible for the submittal of the proposed protocol.

Policy:

To serve as a Principal Investigator for a human subjects research protocol at SIUC, an individual must be qualified according to the following eligibility requirements:

- Must be currently employed by SIUC; this includes people on leave, such as sabbatical, as long as they retain their appointment and intend to return.
- Must be a tenured or tenure-track faculty, with regular graduate faculty status, or direct dissertation faculty status with the Graduate School³.
- Undergraduate and graduate students may serve as a PI for their own projects if they have a faculty advisor who co-signs the protocol application and is qualified as enumerated above.
- Retired faculty, staff or instructors may act as a PI for their own projects with the co-signature of the unit executive (Dean, Director, or other).
- A/P staff and non-tenure-track faculty may act as PI for their own projects with the co-signature of the unit executive (Dean, Director, or other).
- Research undertaken by non-faculty members must be conducted within an established unit of the University, with the co-signature of the unit executive

(Dean, Director, or other).

Exceptions to this policy may be considered by the Board at a convened meeting with a quorum present, if the majority of voting members present approve the exception.

I. References

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, <https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/guidance/faq/investigator-responsibilities/index.html>
2. Ibid.
3. Operating Paper of the Graduate School, SIUC, Section 2 (1)(A)(1), <https://policies.siu.edu/employees-handbook/chapter11/opgs.php>