



# Guidance– Student Research and Class Projects

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## General Description

Federal regulations and university policies require the UNLV Institutional Review Board (IRB) to review and approve research with human subjects prior to initiation. This guidance will help students who conduct research learn when they need to submit a proposal to the UNLV IRB.

## When it applies/context

This applies to UNLV students, residents, and fellows conducting research with human subjects. Where applicable, researchers should review this guidance so that appropriate IRB submissions are completed and approved prior to engaging with human subjects.

## Considerations & Best Practices

### Considerations

Many class projects are conducted for educational purposes rather than research. In these cases, they will not need IRB review. Projects that use human subjects and are conducted for senior projects, master’s theses, or doctoral dissertations are typically student research activities where the intent is to develop or generate generalizable knowledge. In this way, they meet the Federal definition of research involving human subjects and are under the purview of the Office of Research Integrity – Human Subjects (ORI-HS) and the Institutional Review Board (IRB). Review and approval **STUDENT RESEARCH**

Student, resident, and fellows conducting research with human subjects must submit with an eligible faculty member who serves in the Principal Investigator (PI) role. To see if your faculty member is eligible for PI status, please see the policy at: <a href="https://www.unlv.edu/research/policies-forms/pi-eligibility">https://www.unlv.edu/research/policies-forms/pi-eligibility</a>	
Research that involves direct interaction with individuals (e.g., in person, via email, web survey, or by phone) or data from human subjects that are individually identifiable	*** IRB approval is required  Submit either the Protocol Proposal Form or the Exempt Research Application Form with yourself listed as the student investigator

<p><b>CLASS PROJECTS</b>                  Class projects are typically conducted for educational purposes and not for the purpose of research.</p>	
<p>Class projects with secondary data as long as this is assigned and conducted as an educational exercise and uses data that are either publically available, de-identified or otherwise unable to be linked to an individual.</p>	<p>*** No separate IRB review needed                  No submission required</p>
<p>Class projects with secondary data as long as this is assigned and conducted as an educational exercise and uses datasets that include private information and codes that link to identifiers, but the students do not have access to the identifiers.</p>	<p>*** No separate IRB review needed                  No submission required</p>
<p>Class projects with direct interaction with humans (e.g., in person, via email, web survey, or by phone), but where the purpose is an educational exercise, professional development, or training, and NOT RESEARCH. The project is not research even if students ask people questions so they can learn how to conduct surveys and interviews, administer assessments, or perform evaluations for the site during a practicum.  <b>EXCEPTION:</b> If a student decides AFTER the completion of the activities that they want to pursue additional research for the completion of a senior project, masters thesis, or doctoral dissertation, then an IRB application must then be submitted describing the research use of the data for use in secondary review.</p>	<p>*** No separate IRB review needed                  No submission required</p>

Class projects that involve direct interactions with