

Fresno Pacific University Guidelines for Human Subject Research

Philosophy

Fresno Pacific University, as a Christian learning community, seeks to uphold the value of the individual and to treat others with dignity and respect. The research participant has the right to informed consent, minimal risk beyond that normally encountered in daily life, privacy, and competence of the researcher.

Definition

Human Subjects (also known as “research participants”): Individual about whom an investigator conducting research obtains data through either intervention or interaction with the individual, or through record of identifiable private information.

Guidelines

1. Human subject research conducted by students must be approved according to stated policies.
2. The purpose of the research must be forthrightly stated.
3. Principles of confidentiality must be maintained.
4. Exposure to certain risks must be acknowledged if present and must be minimized.
5. Informed consent procedures must be maintained. Research Participants must be aware:
 - a. of the purpose of the assessment activity
 - b. of the procedures involved
 - c. of any risks, discomforts, or costs to the participant
 - d. of the benefits of the research
 - e. of who will have access to the information gained and how long it will be retained
 - f. that participation is voluntary and they can stop the research project at any time.

Organizational Structure

The IRB is a university-wide committee whose chair reports to the Dean in charge of the Assessment Committee. The IRB is charged to oversee human subject research and will review all IRB proposals. The committee will consist of faculty representatives from all schools.

Guidelines for Classroom Projects

Any student research project that places subjects at risk, is undertaken to contribute to generalizable knowledge, or involves special populations is subject to IRB review and approval.

1. The IRB committee must be notified of ALL classroom projects involving human subjects that falls within the categories specified above.
2. If you supervise students who do student teaching, internships, projects, etc, and the purpose of such an experience is to enhance an individual classroom or person, AND they are NOT going to use the results of their practice as the data for a senior, master's, or doctoral thesis, to generalize knowledge to a discipline, or to publish the results, then they DO NOT need IRB approval. For example: A student wants to try a new teaching methodology in student teaching, and it is just for his/her own understanding of better teaching methods or practice. The process will not be written up in any papers or used in any other way. This experience would not need IRB approval.
3. If you have faculty or students desiring that you hand out surveys in your class, please be sure that the research conducted in your classroom has IRB approval from both FPU and from the institution or organization with which the researcher is affiliated (when applicable).