Does My Assessment Activity Need IRB Approval?

**Does my assessment activity need IRB approval?**

- **Will findings be shared outside of CSUF?**
  - **Yes**
    - **Does my research involve HUMAN SUBJECTS?**
      - **No**
        - *Warning*: There is no retroactive approval of “Human Subjects Research.” Assessment research (designs and findings) cannot be used later to develop or “contribute to generalizable knowledge.” If you intend to disseminate your assessment process or findings outside of CSUF, you should seek IRB approval prior to conducting assessment activity.
      - **Yes**
        - **SUBMIT an application for IRB review**

- **No**
  - **45 CFR 46** requires review of: Systematic investigations, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge.

You **DO NOT** need to submit an IRB application if your assessment project does not develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge. For example, dissemination of your findings with colleagues exclusively at CSUF typically does not develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge.

**Does my research involve HUMAN SUBJECTS?**

- **45 CFR 46.102f** requires review of systematic investigations which develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge AND involve living individuals about whom the researchers obtains:
  - data through interventions or interaction with the individuals, or
  - existing data which contains individually identifiable private information.

You **DO NOT** need to submit an IRB application if you do not obtain data through intervention or interaction with a living individual, or if you’re using existing data that contains:
  - data from ONLY deceased individuals, or
  - data with NO individually identifiable private information and the researcher/collaborators cannot readily ascertain the identity of a living individual from the data.

For more information about **Human Subjects Research** visit:

[http://www.fullerton.edu/research/research_compliance/irb/](http://www.fullerton.edu/research/research_compliance/irb/) which is administered by the CSUF IRB Office.

**For questions contact**: (657) 278-7640 or irb@fullerton.edu