

DOES MY RESEARCH PROJECT NEED IRB REVIEW?

Does my research *DESIGN* require review?

[45 CFR 46](#) requires review of: **Systematic investigations, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge.**

Development, testing and evaluation of what? It is widely accepted that this refers to the *components* of a research *design* including your procedures (e.g., surveys, interviews, observations), methods and instruments.
What does “develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge” mean? It is widely accepted that this refers to making the *components of a research design* (procedures, methods, and instruments) *as well as your analyzed findings* available for other professionals and/or academics to peer review, replicate and utilize. Traditionally this occurs when publishing or presenting at a professionally refereed venue, conference or competition but it may also occur through new-media methods of professional discourse.

YES

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 researcher obtains**

- Data through intervention or interaction with the individuals, or
- Existing data which contains individually **identifiable private information.**

YES

SUBMIT an application for IRB review.

You DO NOT need to submit an application if your project is not a systematic investigation. Examples of project types which are *typically* not designed as systematic investigations:

- **Oral Histories**
- **Journalism**

And, you DO NOT need to submit an application if your project does not develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge. For example, disseminating your findings **exclusively** at CSUF in a **class, group or at Student Research Competition** typically does not develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge.*

***Caution:** There is *no retroactive approval* of “Human Subjects Research”. Research (designs and findings) from a class, group or Capstone project cannot be used later to develop or “contribute to generalizable knowledge”. The research may be repeated under a reviewed and approved protocol.

You DO NOT need to submit an 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.

***Attention:** Projects from Faculty in Kinesiology must be pre-reviewed by an IRB member from Kinesiology prior to submitting to the IRB office. The roster for the IRB members is available here, <http://fullerton.edu/research/research-compliance/irb/index.asp>

Human Subjects Research details are at:
<http://fullerton.edu/research/research-compliance/irb/index.asp> which is administered by the **CSUF IRB Office**. Questions:
(657) 278-7640 or irb@fullerton.edu.