

Guidance: Class Assignments & IRB Review

These guidelines are intended to address whether class assignments meet the definition of research with human subjects and require review by the Institutional Review Board (IRB). Some student class research projects involve questionnaires, interviews, or other interactions with individuals, such as those used in research methods courses. In cases, faculty should consider if student research projects should be reviewed by the IRB to ensure the protection of human subjects. For questions or additional guidance, email irb@southalabama.edu.

Student class assignments, as a general rule, are not systematic data collection efforts intended to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge and, thus, do not meet the [federal regulatory definition of research](#) (45 CFR 46.102 (f)). The following help further differentiate human subjects research and class assignments.

Research vs Course Assignment

Student projects conducted within an academic course may be categorized as either a course

