IRB Decision Tree at Abilene Christian University

Some scholarly endeavors are not considered research for IRB purposes.[1]

Is this effort research?

Research is defined as systematic investigation designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge.

N — IRB application not required.

Y

Does it involve human subjects?

Does it involve a living individual about whom an investigator conducting research obtains information or biospecimens through intervention or interaction with the individual and uses, studies or analyzes the information of biospecimens?

N — IRB application not required.

Y

In other words, does the researcher collect information via surveys, interviews, focus groups, experiments, interventions?

Does it involve gathering information through intervention, or interaction with individuals?

N — IRB application not required.

Y — This is considered human-subject research.

Start an IRB application on ACU Cayuse' Human Ethics portion.

To access ACU Cayuse visit https://acu.app.cayuse.com/ (Access is restricted to ACU faculty, staff, and students).

The link to the **Human Ethics** portal can be found under the **Products** drop-down menu in the upper-right corner of the Cayuse interface.

Does the study fall into at least one of the following categories?

1. Research involving standard educational practices in an educational setting.
2. Minimal-risk surveys, tests, interviews, or observations.
3. Benign behavioral interventions.
4. Research involving existing data or specimens that are publicly available or de-identified.
5. Public benefit programs supported by a federal agency.
6. Taste and food-quality evaluation studies.
7. Research involving storage or maintenance for secondary research for which broad consent is required.
8. Secondary research for which broad consent is required.

N — Not sure? Contact ACU's Office of Research Compliance, Integrity, and Security (ORCIS) at researchcompliance@acu.edu.

Y — Your project will most likely require an "Exempt" review. Submit an IRB application.

Does the study fall into at least one of the following categories?

1. Qualifying clinical studies of drugs and medical devices.
2. Qualifying collection of blood samples.[2]
3. Collection of biological samples by noninvasive methods.
4. Noninvasive data collection using procedures routinely employed in clinical practice.
5. Research involving data or samples collected for non-research purposes.
6. Voice, video, digital, or image recordings.
7. Research on individual or group behavior, or research using surveys, interviews and focus groups that does not otherwise qualify for an exemption.

N — Not sure? Contact ACU ORCIS.

Y — Your project will most likely require "Expedited" review. Submit an IRB application.

Expedited reviews are conducted by a single member of the ACU IRB committee.

Does your project involve the following?

1. Vulnerable individuals such as prisoners?
2. Sensitive subjects, namely illegal behaviors that may need an NIH Certificate of Confidentiality to protect participant data from legal disclosure?
3. Research requiring blood or urine sample or tissues such as nail clippling, hair, saliva?

This list is NOT exhaustive. For a complete list of project characteristics that might require Full Board review, contact ACU ORCIS.

N — Not sure? Contact ACU ORCIS.

Y — Your project will require "Full Board" review. Submit an IRB application.

ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

DIVISION OF RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP, AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

[1] *Some scholarly endeavors are not considered research for IRB purposes. Those include journalistic activities such as oral history and literary criticism. For a complete list refer to 45-cfr-46-102(l)(1)-(4).*

[2] *Qualifying circumstances include collecting blood through finger or heel pricks.*