WELCOME TO UTEP!

Responsible Conduct of Research - Dr. Sirmon-Taylor
Responsible Conduct of Research

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UTEP Graduate Student Orientation
Fall 2015
Institutional Review Board

- Federal Regulation 45 CFR 46

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IRB at UTEP

- Located in the **Office of Research and Sponsored Projects (ORSP)**.
- Provides review and oversight for all human subjects research by UTEP faculty, staff, or students on or off campus.
- The UTEP IRB convenes monthly during the fall and spring semesters and only if needed during summer.

- [www.irbnet.org](http://www.irbnet.org)
Examples of research that involve human subjects:

- Questionnaires and surveys
- Interviews
- Focus groups
- Behavioral studies
- Biological specimens
- Medical experiments
- Students’ writing
Rights of human subjects

- Voluntary, informed consent
- Right to end participation at any time
- Protection from physical, mental, and emotional harm
- Benefits outweigh the cost
- Access to information regarding the research
- Protection of privacy and well-being
What will happen if you **don’t** get IRB approval?

- You will need to **STOP** your research immediately.
- You will **not** be able to present or publish your research.
- There could be **legal** ramifications.
Ethics training

You **must** complete human subjects research ethics training:

https://compliance.utep.edu/training

https://www.citiprogram.org/default.asp?language=english
Institutional Animal Care and Use Program

- Humane and compliant treatment of animals involved in research
- 16 member committee, governed by federal law
- Extensive policies (e.g., veterinary care, housing, animals remaining on an expired protocol, euthanasia procedures)
- Review of care, inspection of facilities, approval of research protocols
IRB submission  www.irbnet.org

**Required items**

- Proposal (based on template)
- Verification of IRB compliance training
- Approval of advisor
- Informed consent document
- Study instruments (such as survey questions)
Additional IRB submission items

• If applicable:
  • Site approval letters (extramural research)
  • Recruitment materials
  • Grant application
Topics to address in your IRB proposal

- Hypothesis/research questions
- Background and rationale (lit review)
- Research design and data analysis
- Procedures for recruiting research participants
- Procedure for obtaining informed consent
- Research protocol (what you want participants to do)
- How you will protect the privacy of participants
- How you will maintain the confidentiality of your research data
What does the IRB look for?

- That you have a faculty advisor
- That you’ve thought through the project
- That you’ve limited potential risks to participants
- That subjects have not been coerced into participating
- That you’ll protect participants’ identities and your data.
Submitting the IRB

- [www.irbnet.org](http://www.irbnet.org)
  - Download templates
  - Use templates to create necessary documents and data collection instruments
  - Upload files to complete a “package”
  - When ready, you and your advisor sign the package
  - Click “Submit Package”
How long does the review process take?

- Submit well in advance as it can take time to get approval. You might be asked to make changes to your package.
- Expedited review that doesn’t require whole Board to review: 2-3 weeks.
- A month or more if Board needs to meet.
Modifications

- If you make **significant** modifications to data collection or another part of your study, you need to submit a modification request.

- This request can involve modifying instruments, project proposal, and consent forms.

- New signatures will be needed.
Closure

- Studies are generally valid for a year.
- After a year will you need to submit an update and request for continuation, with any modifications...
- Or you can submit a closure report.
- You’ll be warned about doing this about a month in advance.
What about research off-campus?

- **Local school districts**
  - Submit IRB proposal at UTEP *first* and then contact school district’s research board.
  - Submit UTEP’s approval to the school district and vice versa.

- **Collaborative work with other universities**
  - All researchers should have IRB approval from their institutions.
Begin exploring IRB at UTEP


- Search for “IRB” on UTEP’s homepage.