



Faculty FAQ

Is asking my students to participate in a class survey to demonstrate a statistics concept something that needs to be reviewed by the Institutional Review Board (IRB)? Collecting pre-test grades? Initial physical assessment for a Health course?

No. Activities that are considered an element of teaching and learning are not considered human subjects research, per se. Ordinary course collection of laboratory data, information collected from tests, journal entries, class surveys, measurements obtained in health classes, etc. do not need approval from the IRB, as they are considered part of the teaching process. See the Classroom Project vs Research resource found on the IRB website.

Do both my home institution where my research originates and ABAC have to approve my research proposal?

Yes. If you are pursuing a degree from another institution that requires you complete a research project, that is your “home institution”. Your home institution must approve your project, and ABAC must approve your conducting research utilizing human participants on the ABAC campus. At this time, ABAC is issuing temporary approvals pending IRB approval by the home institution. Once the IRB of your home institution approves your project, you should then submit your project for a review by ABAC IRB.

How do I determine if my project is exempt from IRB Review?

You can find 1) information regarding classroom projects vs research, and 2) a chart of questions to help determine if a project is subject to review by IRB on the IRB web site. It is always better to err on the side of caution and ask for a review if you are having trouble determining. If you still have questions, contact Mr. Scott Pierce, Director of Sponsored Programs and IRB Chair, at 229-391-4983 or scott.pierce@abac.edu.

Does the taking of an oral history or an interview for a journalism/communication article require IRB approval?

Scholarly and journalistic activities (e.g., oral history, journalism, biography, literary criticism, legal research, and historical scholarship), including the collection and use of information that focus directly on the specific individuals about whom the information is collected, are deemed not to be “research” per the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) definition.