

An illustration featuring two stylized human figures. On the left, a person with long brown hair and a large eye is shown in profile, looking thoughtful with a hand to their chin. On the right, a person with short brown hair is smiling. Between them is a grey laptop with the 'UCR' logo on the lid. The background is a light blue wall with a grey rectangular area containing the main text. Decorative elements include black 'x' marks, wavy lines, and orange starburst shapes.

Student Research:

What Instructors Need to Know



OverView

This presentation will cover student research and the responsibility of faculty in the classroom.

Class Projects

When IRB review is needed and not needed.

Independent Study: Theses and Dissertation

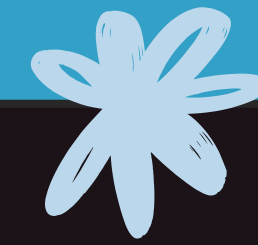
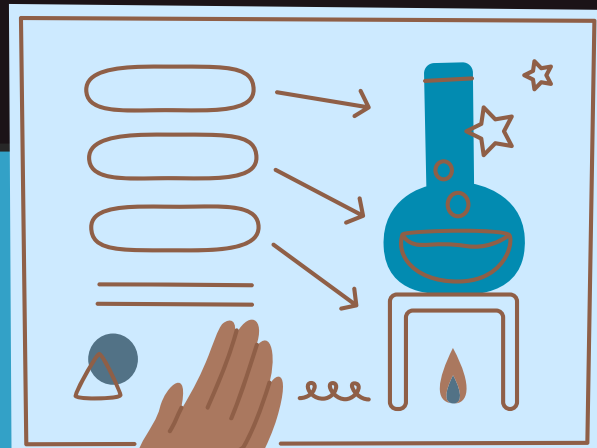
Who serves as the principal investigator and what responsibilities do they assume?

Students as a Research/ Study Population

Safeguards that should be taken when instructors of record want to recruit their own students as subjects.

Class Projects

- Research activities completed for class projects may or may not require IRB review and approval, depending on the circumstances.
- The UCR IRB does not usually consider research activities carried out as part of pedagogical instruction or project as being subject to the review and approval of the IRB. Furthermore, the IRB will only review research activities that meet the definition of “Human Subjects Research” according to the Department of Health and Human Services.
 - Examples of this could include students being asked to conduct interviews or surveys with fellow students, write a report on their findings, and then report/present to the class.
 - In this example, there is no intent to present the findings outside of the course, and therefore the findings will NOT be generalizable.

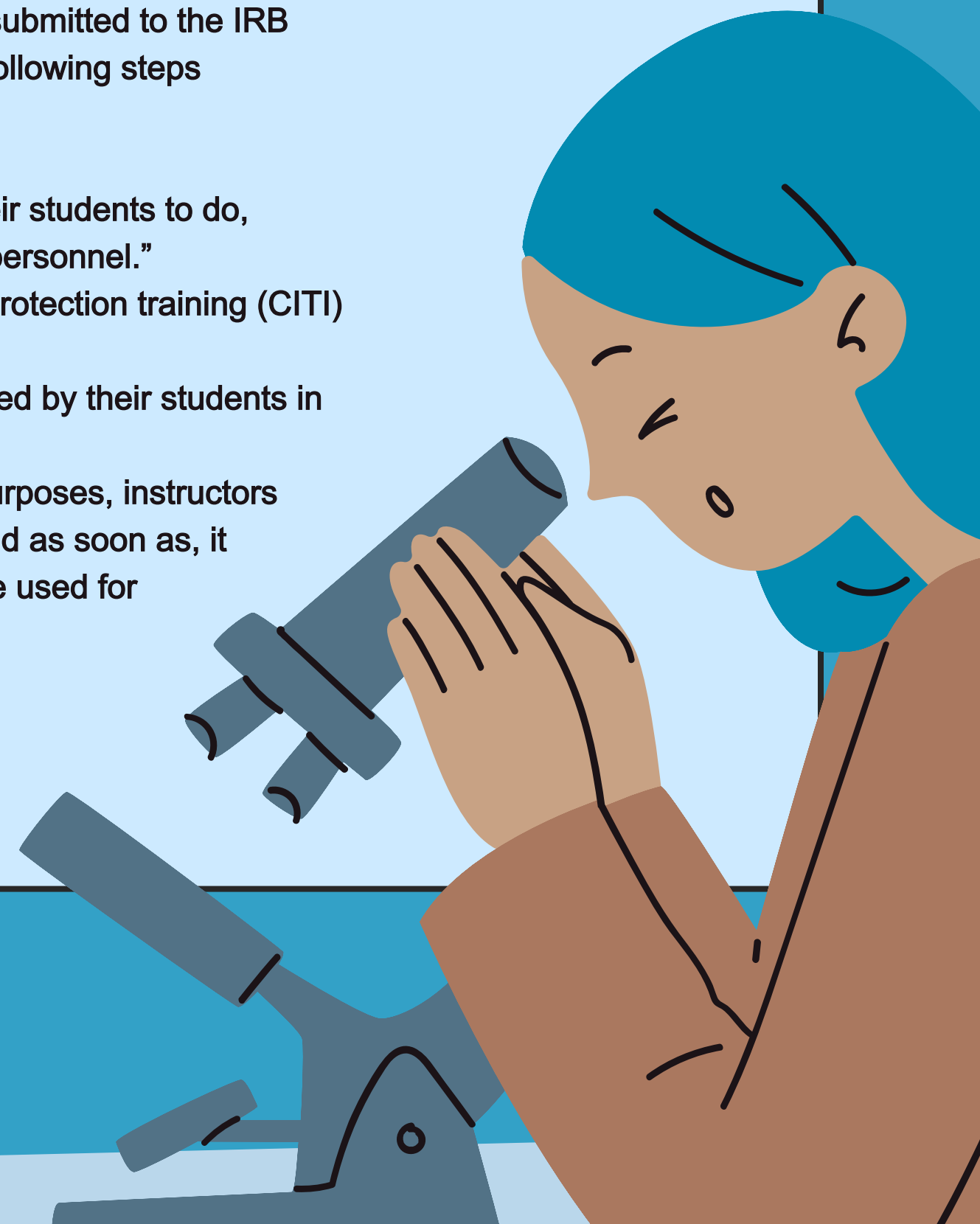
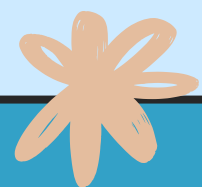
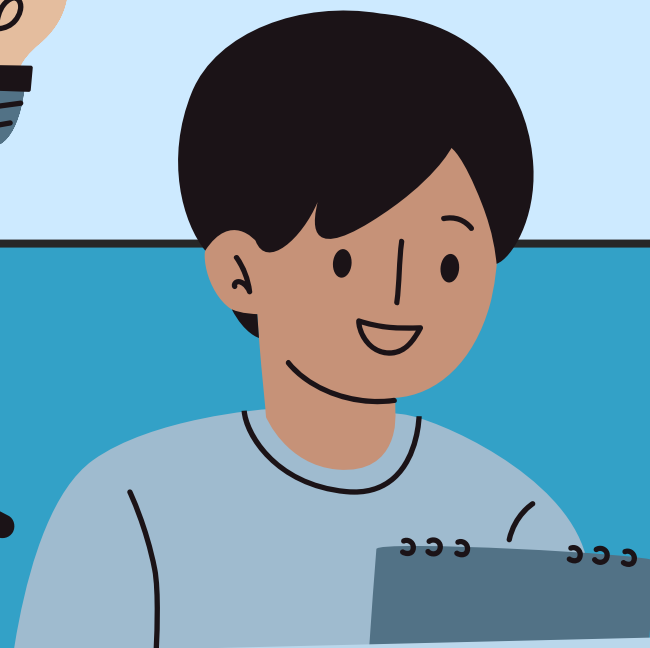
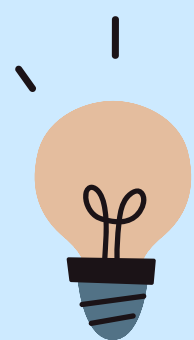


Class Projects: The

Exception

Presented or published presentations may be considered human subjects research and must be submitted to the IRB before collecting data to determine whether prior review and approval of the IRB is required. The following steps should be taken by the course instructor to ensure appropriate IRB review:

1. Instructors of courses should file a general application, related to what they'll be requesting their students to do, before the instructional term, listing themselves as PI, and enrolled students as "other project personnel."
2. Other project personnel (i.e., the students) should complete the online human subjects protection training (CITI) before being added to the study personnel list.
3. The instructor in the course provides the IRB with updates on the sub - projects being pursued by their students in the form of amendments, prior to any data collection beginning.
4. In cases where there the instructor only wants their students to conduct the project for class purposes, instructors should inform their students that they need to prepare and file an application with the IRB if, and as soon as, it becomes apparent that the work they will complete for instructional purposes may ultimately be used for research purposes, (i.e., to contribute to generalizable knowledge).





Independent Study: Theses and Dissertations

- Independent student projects done for their theses and/or dissertations may meet the federal definition of human subjects research and can be independently submitted to the IRB by the student researcher and do not have to be connected to a course.
- When students conduct research (whether as part of a course or independently), the faculty member overseeing the project is ultimately responsible for protecting the rights and welfare of the subjects, even if the student serves as the primary researcher and directs the study.
- Faculty Advisers and Sponsors assume the responsibility for students engaged in independent research, and instructors are responsible for research that is conducted as part of a course.
- Students must have a faculty sponsor who fulfills the PI eligibility criteria and who will serve as faculty advisor on the study to be able to submit a protocol for review to the IRB.

Faculty Advisor/Sponsor Responsibilities

Student investigators are not eligible to serve as the PI of record. A faculty member, typically the student's faculty advisor, must serve as the PI in the student's stead. When a faculty advisor agrees to serve as the PI of record they are attesting to the following:

Responsibility 1

They accept ultimate responsibility for the conduct of the study and the protection of the rights and welfare of the human participants who are directly and indirectly involved in this project.

Responsibility 2

They and their student(s) will comply with all policies and guidelines of UCR and affiliated institutions where this study will be conducted, as well as with all applicable federal, state and local laws .

Responsibility 3

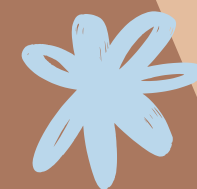
They will ensure that all personnel performing the study are qualified, appropriately trained and will adhere to the provisions of the IRB approved protocol.

Responsibility 4

They will NOT modify the UCR IRB- approved protocol or any attached materials without first obtaining UCR IRB approval and provide all continuing review documentation to the IRB.

Responsibility 5

They will further confirm that they are not in violation of UCR's conflict of interest policy while participating in this research.



students as a research/study population

Instructors often wish to recruit their own students for research purposes. This is sometimes necessary, as instructors may want to test the effectiveness of an intervention in their course, compare teaching methods, and so on.

- Instructors should not view their students as a captive audience, as participation in research must be voluntary, and enrollment in the course does not equate to enrollment in the research.
- Instructors should realize that there is a power imbalance between them and their students. Students may feel undue influence/pressure to participate in a course, as they may feel that declining participation may negatively impact their grade and/or their relationship with their instructor.
- Students may not feel that participation in the research is voluntary when asked to participate by their course instructor.

Safeguards

When instructors of record wish to include their own students as research subjects the IRB asks that several safeguards be implemented so that students do not feel pressured/coerced to participate.

Options

- Utilize an Alternate Contact : Please ensure that an alternate contact, who is also listed as study personnel in the protocol, is listed on the consent form and all recruitment materials, so that students may contact someone other than the instructor of record should they have questions about the research .
- Unaffiliated Study Personnel Recruit and Consent : Someone other than the instructor of record, who is unaffiliated with the course but listed in the study personnel/project roster, should be responsible for recruiting and consenting subjects .
- Student Participation is Kept from the Instructor : Knowledge of who participated and who did not participate, should be withheld from the instructor of record until final grades have been submitted . This point should be made clear to students/potential participants in all recruitment and consent materials .

Options cont.

- Assurance Statements should be Included in the Consent: The consent document(s) should include a statement indicating that declining to participate will in no way impact their academic standing or grades in the course.
- These safeguards are not absolute, and the IRB may request additional safeguards or even require less depending on the circumstances.
 - For example, if a survey will truly be anonymous, the IRB may not require that a study personnel member unaffiliated with the course be required to conduct recruitment activities.



Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusion

- These are just a few issues that instructors should be aware of to navigate the IRB review process effectively.
- In a future session, we will cover other student research - focused topics such as FERPA and additional privacy regulations and requirements.

Recommendations

- For instructors, remember students are not a captive audience and participation must be voluntary.
- If a class project may generate new or generalizable information, be sure to seek IRB approval beforehand.
- When in doubt, contact the IRB.



Thank you for
listening

