What is IRB and What Does it Do?

By Deanna Hendrickson

IRB stands for Institutional Review Board and its purpose is to regulate all research activities involving human subjects on the campuses of Kennesaw State University, ensuring that people who participate in research are treated ethically and in compliance with all federal and state laws and regulations. Every institution’s IRB must comply with their own Federal-wide Assurance of Compliance, so the procedures and guidelines should be similar from university to university but might not be exactly the same. If you recently transferred from another university or are a new/seasoned KSU faculty member and want more information, please review our website and contact us with any questions you might have (http://www.kennesaw.edu/irb/).

KSU requires prior review and approval to be obtained from the IRB for all research involving human participants, including plans to gather data from participants for master’s theses and other student projects. Any administration of a substance or stimulus, interview, test, use of records that identify living individuals, or observations of non-public behavior must be approved by the IRB. To determine if a project requires IRB Review, complete the IRB Oversight Decision Tree.

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Types of IRB Review

The three types of IRB review include exemption classification review, expedited review and full board review. Remember that even if you believe your protocol to be considered exempt as defined below, you still have to submit your study information and request that exemption be approved by the IRB in order to remain in compliance with the Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP).

Exemption Classification Review: Federal regulations identify the six categories of research listed below as eligible for exemption from continuing IRB oversight (exempted studies do not require annual review by the IRB). Although these categories involve research with human subjects, the research exposes subjects to minimal psychological, social, or physical risks (minimal risk is a risk of harm to the subject that is no greater than the risk encountered in normal, day-to-day activities or during routine physical or psychological examinations).

1. Educational Purposes Only
2. Educational Tests, Surveys, Interviews, Public Observation
3. Elected or Public Officials
4. Research with Existing Data
5. Public Benefit or Service Programs
6. Taste Tests

IRB Approval Request Short Form – This form (submitted by faculty only) is used for requesting exemption for overall classroom research assignments involving human subjects when there is no reporting outside the classroom by student researchers. The faculty member takes primary responsibility for ensuring that students do not violate the rights and welfare of human subjects; that ethical principles for the protection of human subjects are communicated to students; and that students understand that the assignment is for educational purposes only.

Students who wish to collect data for possible use in future projects (for outside of the classroom projects) should be instructed by the faculty member to apply individually to the IRB for project review, as data collected via the short form cannot be submitted to the IRB for retrospective review and approval.

Expedited Review: Expedited reviews are conducted when research involves no more than minimal risk to participants and falls within the seven designated categories listed below, with full details and examples found here. Research involving any of the following may qualify for expedited review:

1. Clinical studies of drugs and medical devices only when condition (a) or (b) noted here is met.
2. Collection of blood samples by finger stick, heel stick, ear stick, or venipuncture
3. Prospective collection of biological specimens for research purposes by noninvasive means.
4. Collection of data through noninvasive procedures (not involving general anesthesia or sedation) routinely employed in clinical practice, excluding procedures involving x-rays or microwaves.
5. Research involving materials (data, documents, records, or specimens) that have been collected, or will be collected solely for non-research purposes (such as medical treatment or diagnosis).
6. Collection of data and analysis of existing voice, video, digital, or image recordings
7. Research on individual or group behavior or characteristics or research employing surveys, interviews, oral histories, focus groups, etc.

Studies involving children, prisoners, pregnant women, or impaired adults, use of deception, illegal activities, or private activities may require full board review. In addition, any study that involves gathering information of an extremely sensitive nature (e.g., info about substance use or abuse, sharing therapeutic insights, etc.) would also be subject to full board. Research with these protected populations or activities should be fully explained in the protocol so determination can be made by the IRB.

Full Board Review: If a study cannot meet exemption qualifications, or the IRB determines (following expedited review) that the study places participants at more than minimal risk, then a full board review is required. You will be notified that the study requires further review, the date of the meeting at which the study will be reviewed, and that your attendance is required in order to answer any questions that the board may have regarding the study. If you are unable to attend the meeting, full board review of the study will be postponed until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the board.

The details regarding the IRB Meeting Schedule can be found here.

IRB Contact Information

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The IRB website is packed with specific information on the appropriate process to apply for review, frequently asked questions, additional resources, training and much more. All email correspondence should be sent to irb@kennesaw.edu, but you can always contact us via phone with any questions or concerns.
Welcome to all the faculty from SPSU who are now part of the “new KSU.” We look forward to working with you and are thrilled about the opportunities now available in areas new to KSU, such as engineering and computer gaming. The consolidation of the two institutions has opened many new doors to KSU regarding grant opportunities.

As of the end of March, we had already submitted 13 proposals and had four in preparation for 14 PIs based on the Marietta campus. Natasha Stark has been busy – she has been working from the Marietta campus research office (the OSP office in the Atrium building) on Mondays and Tuesdays to provide support to the Marietta-based faculty, and is available other days by appointment, as are most of the research office staff. Kelly Millsaps has worked closely with these faculty as well, providing budget support and reviewing documents before submission. Sarah Hope Abercrombie is staying at the Marietta office and will continue to provide support to the Marietta-based faculty and getting proposals out the door (45 proposals have been submitted so far in 2015 vs. 25 this same time in 2014). On January 20th, Kelly, Natasha, Anna McCoy, Reynolds Brown, Sarah, and I hosted morning and afternoon meet and greet sessions at the Marietta office. We were able to meet many currently funded faculty members, as well as faculty interested in proposal writing.

Betsy Adams, former director of the SPSU office, and Russ Hunt, former dean of SPSU’s Extended University, have both moved to the Kennesaw office and each brings a wealth of experience and expertise to our midst. Betsy has assumed a new role as the Research Financial Compliance and Audit Officer and Russ is the Associate Vice President for Research where one of his responsibilities is commercialization of intellectual property. We will include brief bios of Russ, Betsy, and Sarah in our next newsletter.

We did not get a newsletter out in January as we had hoped, and instead focused on getting to know the Marietta-based faculty and getting proposals out the door. 45 proposals have been submitted so far in 2015 vs. 25 this same time in 2014. On January 20th, Kelly, Natasha, Anna McCoy, Reynolds Brown, Sarah, and I hosted morning and afternoon meet and greet sessions at the Marietta office. We were able to meet many currently funded faculty members, as well as faculty interested in proposal writing.

FEDERAL POLICY UPDATES

In December 2013, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance, or UG, for short), consolidating eight OMB circulars (Federal regulations) into one document. In order to give the Federal agencies, each of which is tasked with implementing these regulations via a policy document of some kind, time to revise their documents to conform to the new regulations, the UG went into effect for all new Federal awards issued on or after December 26, 2014. This website provides information and links: https://cfo.gov/cofar/.

We will be updating our website with revised budget information. One change you will like is the ability to directly charge computers that are “essential and allocable, but not solely dedicated, to the performance of an award.” (2 CFR 200.453)


The National Science Foundation has provided a helpful summary of changes to the PAPPG at the front of the December version: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policy-docs/pappguide/nsf15001/sigchanges.jsp.

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## Upcoming Deadlines

### Arts & Humanities

Doris Duke Foundation Building Demand for the Arts........................................April 24 (LOI)

NEH Challenge Grants......................................................................................May 5
http://www.neh.gov/grants/challenge/challenge-grants

NSF - Antarctic Artists and Writers Program...............................................May 10
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503518

USAID Conflict Mitigation and Reconciliation Programs..........................May 20
http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=274846

### Education & Community Development

http://eca.state.gov/organizational-funding/open-grant-solicitations

NSF - Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)...........................May 22
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5517

National Education Association Foundation Grants.....................................June 1
http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/grants-to-educators/

Sprint Foundation – Youth Development.....................................................June 1
http://goodworks.sprint.com/people/communities/sprint-foundation/

### Health

National League for Nursing – Nurse Education Research....................June 1
http://nln.org/research/grants/index.htm

NIH Small Grant Program (R03).................................................................June 16
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/r03.htm

NIH AREA (R15)..............................................................................................June 25
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/area.htm

### STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math)

American Honda Foundation.................................................................May 1

W.M. Keck Foundation – Science & Engineering/Medical Research.........May 1
http://wmkeck.us/grant-programs/research

Dreyfus Foundation – Teacher-Scholar Awards in Chemical Sciences........May 8
http://www.dreyfus.org/awards/henry_dreyfus_teacher_award.shtml

NSF - Cyberlearning and Future Learning Technologies.........................May 11
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=504984

NSF – Cybersecurity Innovation for Cyberinfrastructure..........................June 2

NSF – Software Infrastructure for Sustained Innovation – S2I2.................June 3

NSF - Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR) Phase I........June 16

NSF – Small Business Technology Transfer Program (STTR) Phase I........June 18

### Social Sciences

John & Polly Sparks Early Career Grant for Psychologists Investigating SED....May 15

Russell Sage Foundation – Research and Scholar Programs....................June 1
http://www.russellsage.org/how-to-apply

NSF – Social Psychology.........................................................................July 15