E. STUDENT RESEARCH

1. This policy distinguishes five (5) kinds of student research:

   a. Undergraduate or graduate student thesis research and/or independent study research that involves interaction with human subjects.
   b. A class research project involving interaction with human subjects and designed to produce generalizable knowledge.
   c. Class assignments primarily intended for educational purposes that involve interaction with human subject(s).
   d. Class assignments conducted within research methods classes involving interaction with human subjects with the primary intention of demonstrating how research is done.
   e. Students who are utilizing data from a research project that already has HSC approval.

2. All undergraduate or graduate student thesis and independent study research should follow the same procedures as those for faculty research described above.

   a. The student’s faculty advisor is responsible for informing the student of the necessary procedures

3. A class research project (e.g., a research project involving interaction with human subjects that is intended to produce generalizable knowledge) is handled via a single submission by the faculty member teaching the class, and directed to the Area Representative or HSC, as appropriate.

   a. The faculty member teaching the class or sponsoring the student bears a responsibility to educate students concerning the University policy on Human Subjects Research. Faculty are encouraged to have students read through the Human Subjects Manual on-line as part of the research assignment, and to discuss these points as appropriate while preparing students to do research.

   b. In the application, the faculty member should describe the class project and indicate what steps have been taken to inform students about their responsibilities as researchers who will be working with human subjects.

   c. The submission by the faculty member should affirm that all student projects fit the definition of exempt research. If the Area representative agrees, blanket approval will be granted for all student research conducted as part of that course delivery.

1. If a faculty member anticipates teaching repeated sections of a course involving class projects during an academic year, blanket approval for the year may be sought.

2. If several faculty are responsible for repeated sections of a course involving class projects, they may jointly apply for blanket approval for that academic year.

3. Separate course numbers, and also substantially different approaches to teaching repeated sections of a course, require separate applications.
d. If the faculty member anticipates, or intends to allow, a student to conduct human subjects research that is not exempt, the student and sponsoring faculty member should jointly apply to the HSC for expedited or full review.

4. Class assignments primarily intended for educational purposes that involve interaction with human subjects are not subject to HSC review provided that they do not place human subjects at more than minimal risk (see Section II. F.) and they do not utilize systematic data gathering procedures with vulnerable populations including pregnant women, prisoners, persons with mental disabilities, minors, or economically or educationally disadvantaged persons. For example, a class assignment that asked students to interview several adults about their impressions of a recent election would not be subject to HSC review. However, an assignment that asked a student to administer a standardized psychological test to a minor or homeless person would require HSC review only if this met the definition of research. Everyday conversations with member of vulnerable populations in the course of Arrupe Center placements would not be subject to HSC review unless students were engaged in systematic data gathering procedures.

5. Class assignments conducted within research methods classes with the intention of demonstrating how research is done are not subject to HSC review provided that they do not place human subjects at more than minimal risk (see Section II. F.) and/or they do not utilize systematic data gathering procedures with vulnerable populations including pregnant women, prisoners, persons with mental disabilities, minors, or economically or educationally disadvantaged persons. Therefore, the administration of a survey to undergraduate students about their use of technology would not be subject to HSC review, provided that there was no intention to produce generalizable knowledge (e.g., to present these results at a conference or within a publication).

6. When a student is working on a project that already has Human Subjects approval, and that student will use some of the data to fulfill a course or degree requirement, such as a senior thesis or master’s degree, the original principal investigator must submit an amendment to the HSC requesting the student be added as a researcher on his/her project for the stated purpose.

Instructors are responsible for making the initial determination as to whether HSC review is required.

Instructors and students are cautioned to consider the implications of not obtaining human subjects approval should they later decide that they wish to present the results in a public manner (e.g., at an academic conference, or through publication). If there is any doubt as to whether the project should be reviewed by the HSC, the Chair of the Human Subjects Committee should be contacted.

In the event that HSC review is not needed for a particular classroom research project, the student researcher and the instructor are not relieved of the obligation for the ethical use of human subjects. Consequently, the researchers should adhere to ethical standards and use informed consent when appropriate.