

DO YOU NEED THE IRB?

WHAT IS THE IRB?

The Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects (IRB) is responsible for the review of all research activity that involves human subjects that is conducted on or off campus by faculty, staff, or students, or others seeking to conduct research at the University of Scranton. Its operations and scope are required and guided by the [Code of Federal Regulations, 45 CFR 46](#), as amended. Activities governed by this regulation and the University's [IRB policies and procedures](#) include research, development, and related activities which would normally be construed as biological, behavioral, or psychological investigations involving human subjects.

When reviewing research proposals, the IRB is primarily interested in safeguarding the rights and well-being of the human subject and in assessing the ethical implications of the proposed procedures. As described in The Belmont Report, the following ethical principles and their translation into action serve as an additional guide for the IRB's review of research activities:

- Respect for Persons - Informed Consent, Beneficence
- Assessment of Risks and Benefits, and
- Justice - Equitable Selection of Subjects

DOES YOUR PROJECT NEED IRB APPROVAL?

- Do you or your students use human subjects in research or class research assignments?
- Do you or your students plan to publish the results of a project involving human subjects research?
- Do you or your students conduct surveys with any persons or institutions outside of the University of Scranton community?
- Do you or your students use members of the University of Scranton community outside of your own classes for research?
- Have you been contacted by any persons outside of the University who wish to use members of the University of Scranton community as research subjects?

If you answered **YES** to **any** question above - **YOU DO NEED THE IRB!**

IRB POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

All research projects using human subjects, classroom assignments as well as individual research, must be submitted to the IRB for review. The [IRB Policies and Procedures Manual](#) outlines our IRB practices and types of review. No phase of a project may begin until approval is obtained. Submission must occur through the University's IRB platform, IRBNet. Completion of IRB-approved training is required of all persons conducting research with Human Subjects at, or in conjunction with, the University of Scranton.

Visit the [IRB web site](#) to learn more, and to access the University's IRBNet and CITI training resources.