

What is the Difference between Class Related Instruction Assignments & Research Project at UMKC that involve “Human Subjects”

What is UMKC’s research policy?

According to the collected rules of UM System, the research policy and the principles apply in all situations and activities of the University where human subjects are used in research or other activities regardless of the source(s) of support. This shall apply equally whether the supporting funds are from outside or from within the University, whether separately budgeted or unbudgeted.

What is the difference between a class instruction assignment and a research project at UMKC?

The difference is based on what is called the “common rule” - 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 46. This document defines research a “systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge.”

What does “develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge” refer to?

Dissemination of findings to a scientific audience is a sufficient, but not a necessary, criterion for defining research.

Dissemination includes, but is not limited to, honor's, master's, and doctoral theses; presentation at a scientific meeting or conference; submission to or publication, paper or electronic, in a scientific journal; and internet postings.

What is meant by “human subjects”?

“Human subject means a living individual about whom an investigator (whether professional or student) conducting research obtains:

1. Data through intervention or interaction with the individual, or
2. Identifiable private information.”

(Code of Federal Regulations 45 CFR 46)

If the project falls under this definition of research - review and approval of a human participant research protocol by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) is required. Contact the Research Protections Program (816.235.1358 or goodm@umkc.edu) for guidance.

Class-related instructional assignments/projects that don't fit the above criteria - don't need to be submitted to the IRB for human participants protection review. However, if either knowledge contribution or dissemination is a possibility, IRB review and approval must be obtained prior to the involvement of human participants.

Why is it important to get IRB approval before the start of research?

IRB approval of a research protocol cannot be granted retroactively under any circumstances!

Tips for Students:

- Advisor's signatures are required on IRB applications for student research. Application approval can be held up if signature is not provided when submitted.
- Allow plenty of time for the IRB approval process. We suggest contacting the IRB early in the planning process to clarify the amount of time needed for the submission and review process.
- Speak with your advisor or instructor about your previous experience and coursework to determine if it is appropriate for you, with our research experience, to conduct the research you are proposing and the risk(s) you are proposing for your research subjects
- If you are a student who brings additional research or specialized experience to the project, inform the IRB of that fact in your submission materials or application.