

## When do you need Human Subject Committee/IRB approval?

**You need to get approval if your project or research deals with human subjects as described in code of Federal Regulations, 45 CFR 46.102f:**

*“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.”*

In 45 CFR 46.102 (d) Research is defined as “a systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge.” In general, if the researcher’s intent is to publicly present results (e.g. at a conference or through a scholarly publication), the researcher should obtain approval for the project prior to data collection.

For more details about 45 CFR 46.102f, check the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services website:

<http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/humansubjects/guidance/45cfr46.html#46.102>

All researchers (faculty, staff, or students) using or collecting information about human subjects to conduct research are required to have approval from the Human Subject Committee/IRB before research is initiated\*. The Human Subject Committee/IRB, not the investigator, is responsible to determine whether the research qualifies for exemption or approval. Projects that meet the definition as outlined above must be approved by the Human Subjects Committee regardless of the source of funds. Researchers should receive Human Subject Committee/IRB approval to be in compliance with federal regulations regarding the ethical treatment of human subjects.

**The following are research activities typically do not require a Human Subject Committee/IRB approval:**

- Information collected for courses and instructors’ evaluations.
- Information collected for students’ evaluations.
- Information collected for program improvement, evaluation, or accreditation.
- Information collected for employees’/staff evaluations.

Remember if this data collection will be used for a conference presentation or a scholarly publication, Human Subjects Committee/IRB approval must be obtained prior to conducting the research. Researchers are encouraged to contact the Human Subject Committee if they have a question about whether their project requires approval or not.

\* Any research conducted without approval from the Human Subject Committee will not be positively sanctioned by Bemidji State University.