

Classroom-Related Activities

Policy and Procedure Statements

The policy and procedure statements below are presented as a result of the IRB's charge to develop language that would clarify whether classroom-activities should or should not come before this committee.

TITLE: Exemption of Classroom-Related Activities

The University of Tennessee is an educational institute whose teaching mission includes instruction about scholarship and research. The IRB, after a number of discussions, has approved the following policy and procedure statements regarding classroom-related projects.

POLICY:

Course activities that involve the use of human subjects, but have no connection with research beyond the instructional function as defined by federal regulations preclude the need for certification or IRB review. Federal regulations define research-related activities as any systematic investigation designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge. Efforts that lead to the presentation outside of the classroom, and/or the publicizing of the student prepared documents in any manner are considered "research."

PROCEDURE:

The classroom instructor should submit to the Department head, with a copy to Research Compliance Services, a memorandum stating the nature of the classroom activity and the extent of student and subject involvement. Any sign-up or recruitment materials for said course requirements must not use the word "research" to external publics.