



INVESTIGATOR GUIDANCE: Students as Research Subjects

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. This guidance describes best practices for conducting <Human Research> that involves students as subjects.

2. GUIDANCE

- 2.1. Whenever possible, investigators should avoid using their own students if another population of subjects is equally suited to the research question. Examples include; another class section that is not taught by the investigator, recruitment by another instructor, or blind/coded data collection by an independent third party so research participants cannot be identified to the instructor.
- 2.2. A student may not be compelled to participate in instructor-initiated research as part of a course requirement.
- 2.3. When deception is used, students have the right to full disclosure as soon as possible.
- 2.4. Whenever possible, a teaching opportunity in the form of an "educational debriefing" should be employed.
- 2.5. Under FERPA, investigators generally may not access classroom performance evaluations, grades or information in a student's record without prior written permission from the student, regardless of the access an investigator may have. (see "INVESTIGATOR GUIDANCE: Additional ED Requirements (HRP-814)")
- 2.6. When course credit or extra credit is given to students who participate in research as part of a course requirements, students are to be given a non-research alternative for earning an equivalent amount of extra credit. This project should be comparable in terms of: time, effort and educational benefit to participation as a research subject to ensure that students are not being coerced into becoming subjects. Alternatives offered to research participants must have prior OHSU IRB approval.
- 2.7. Whenever possible, investigators should limit the use of extra credit as compensation. Extra credit should not significantly increase a student's overall grade. In general it is favorable to give credit if the subject withdraws, unless the student withdraws immediately or there is evidence of bad faith on the part of the student; and
- 2.8. Whenever possible, investigators should avoid using class time to recruit or engage students in research.

3. REFERENCES

- 3.1. None