Summary of Research Review

Institutional Review Board | Dordt University, Sioux Center, IA

The Institutional Review Board (IRB) reviews proposed research projects to ensure ethical guidelines are followed. Examples of the types of projects that require IRB review are given below. All biomedical and behavioral research projects must be submitted for review. Research plans and protocols should be submitted using the links provided on the IRB webpage.

The IRB can conduct reviews at three different levels – Exempt, Expedited, or Full review – depending on the nature of the proposed research.

Exempt Review is for research that poses no greater than minimal risk and falls into one of the following categories:

**Please note that the IRB, not researcher(s) or faculty sponsor(s), determines if research is exempt.*

- Research conducted in established or commonly accepted educational settings, involving normal education practices.
- Research only includes interactions involving educational tests, survey procedures, interview procedures, or observations of public behavior.
- Research involves benign behavioral interventions and collection of information from adults with their agreement.
- Secondary research using identifiable private information or identifiable biospecimens.
- Research studying, evaluating, or examining public benefit or service programs.
- Research involving taste and food quality evaluation of consumer acceptance studies.
- Storage or maintenance of identifiable private information or identifiable biospecimens for secondary research use.

Expedited Review is for research that poses no greater than minimal risk and falls into one of the following categories:

- Clinical studies of drugs and medical devices for which investigational new drug application or investigational device exemption application is not required or medical devices used in accordance with approved labeling.
- Limited collection of blood samples from healthy non-pregnant adults and children within established age, weight, and health guidelines.
- Noninvasive collection of biological specimens for research purposes.
- Collection of data through noninvasive procedures routinely used in clinical practice, Exclusions include procedures that require general anesthesia and procedures involving x-rays and microwaves.
- Research involving materials and data collected solely for non-research purposes such as medical treatment or diagnosis which does not meet the qualifications for exempt review.
- Collection of data from voice or image recordings made for research purposes.
- Research on individual or group characteristics which does not meet the qualifications for exempt review, but which poses no greater than minimal risk.
- Continuing review of research previously approved by the full board, which remains active for long-term follow up, in which no new subjects have been enrolled and no additional risks have been identified, or where remaining research activities are limited to data analysis.

Full Review is for research that has greater than minimal risk and/or does not qualify for exempt or expedited review.

Evidence of successful completion of appropriate CITI training (Research, Ethics, and Compliance training) is required by the IRB.