

## CUH IRB Charter Excerpt

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*(From Sept 2015 Charter, Appendix 2, see current Charter for full version)*

### Action Research

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Action research is research that is specific to teachers and it involves a systematic inquiry completed by a teacher to improve one's practice. Action research is often conducted within the teacher's educational setting and is intended to inform and improve a teacher's practice. Action research is defined as any systematic inquiry conducted by teachers, administrators, counselors or others with a vested interest in the teaching and learning process or environment for the purpose of gathering information about how their particular schools operate, how they teach and how their students learn (Mills, 2011). Action research is characterized as research that is done by teachers for themselves as a systematic inquiry into one's own practice (Mertler, 2014).

Action research is completed in an educational setting and falls under the purview of social and behavioral research. As with any social and behavioral research, action research must stay within the ethical boundaries set forth for human research.

Like thesis research, action research projects may need to be approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB). Since Action Research projects need to be completed within a semester time frame, it is imperative that they be planned so that they fall within the exempt category of the IRB guidelines or outside the IRB purview for review.

Action Research studies **require** IRB approval if the data:

- will be used in a dissertation or thesis;
- could potentially be published or shared publicly (including, but not limited to trade journals, electronic sharing mechanisms, peer-reviewed publication);
- will be used to create a presentation or poster session that will be presented at peer-reviewed/professional conferences, or at CUH symposiums/assemblies;

Action Research studies **do not require** IRB approval if the data:

- are used for improving teaching/professional skills;
- will share the data only within the school/organization of which the individual works;

- will present the data only to the principal/supervisor or supervising CUH faculty member;
- will be presenting the data only to instructor, class members, and other CUH students and faculty (not for a thesis or dissertation) in a CUH classroom setting

See Appendix 3 for more detail on examples of studies that do, or do not, typically require IRB approval.