

**CUH IRB Charter Excerpt
(From Sept 2015 Charter, Appendix 3, see current Charter for full
version)**

Examples of IRB reviewable and non-IRB reviewable projects

Examples of projects that the IRB does not typically review are:

- Teacher and student evaluations used solely by the institution
- Class-related data collection projects (with adults and of no more than minimal risk) conducted solely for didactic purposes where the results are not disseminated outside the classroom
- Activities conducted for quality improvement/quality assurance intended solely for internal use and not designed to contribute to generalizable knowledge – these may include “institutional” surveys or other assessment projects that are less than minimal risk and are only intended for purposes of benchmarking or institutional assessment and are not publicly disseminated
- Data collection activities performed as a commercial service to inform business decisions regarding a specific process or product if the results will not be made public by the researchers, the business, and/or the sponsor (if other than the business)
- Journalism articles
- Theatrical productions
- Art exhibits
- Self-ethnographies
- Secondary datasets available online without permission (e.g., IPEDS data accessed through the National Center for Education Statistics website), or data obtained from well-known secondary public data sources that anyone can access but involve a standard registration process (e.g., data obtained from the ICPSR).

Examples of projects that typically are considered research needing review include:

- Oral history projects
- “Action” research conducted by graduate students or faculty in education settings
- Class or institutional projects that will be disseminated for a scholarly purpose, or that involve data collection on sensitive populations or subjects (e.g., minors and/or substance abuse, mental health, sexual identity, prisoners), involve deception of potential participants, or otherwise present more than minimal risk to participants
- Taking blood or other biological samples from any person other than oneself, unless it is clearly for non-research purposes
- Secondary datasets obtained from a state agency, nonprofit organization,

other university researchers, or other private source which are then going to be used for faculty or student research

It is possible that some activities will begin as non-research activities (such as course evaluations) and later spark a research question or otherwise evolve into research, at which time they fall under IRB jurisdiction, and it becomes necessary to obtain IRB approval to use data that has already been collected. When the intent of the activity becomes dissemination to a wider audience and contribution to the general knowledge base in a field, IRB approval is necessary.

Please note that retrospective approval cannot be granted for research studies that have already begun. Investigators must seek a determination and/or IRB review of projects that may fit the definition of research as described above, or risk being found in regulatory noncompliance, which typically results in a finding that the data be destroyed.