



Faculty Use of Students in Research

The MCC IRB has developed the following guidelines for faculty members/instructors who wish to use their own students in a research project regardless of the level of risk or type of research project.

Researchers are asked to recognize that coercion to participate in a study, however benign, adds an increased level of risk to the participants. To mitigate this risk, the IRB suggests that the following procedure be followed:

1. For those studies where the class material will be used in the study, students should be notified early in the semester that they will be asked to consent to the use of their data in a research study (this step is especially important when the data includes reflection pieces or personal essays).
2. Consent materials should be distributed and collected by someone other than the instructor (an independent third party such as a colleague, graduate assistant, or department administrator).
3. Completed consent forms must be withheld from the instructor until grades have been posted at the end of the semester.
4. Surveys with Students:
 - For one-time surveys distributed during class, written consent should be waived so that there is no record of who participated and who did not.
 - The survey could be distributed during class and returned to an independent third party (department administrator, GA, other faculty, etc.) at a later time.
 - Surveys completed during class should be distributed and collected by an independent third party, not the instructor.
 - Completed surveys should be withheld from the researcher until after grades are posted.
 - Anonymous online surveys using Qualtrics or Google Forms may eliminate some coercion.
 - Identifiers such as handwriting and demographic data may make a survey identifiable and breach privacy.
 - Peer coercion may be an additional factor for in-class completion of surveys.

Faculty members/instructors who wish to use their students in a research study are strongly encouraged to discuss their project with the IRB Administrator, IRB@mohave.edu : prior to designing the protocol to delay approval of the project. The IRB Administrator may be able to suggest other ways to mitigate coercion and/or increase privacy protection.

For more information on this topic, see also:

- [Conducting Research with Your Own Students](#) (Teachers College, Columbia University)
- [Students as Research Participants](#) (Syracuse University)
- [The Many Faces of "Coercion" and "Undue Influence"](#) (Advarra IRB)
- Swenson, E. V., & McCarthy, M. A. (2012). "[Ethically conducting the scholarship of teaching and learning research.](#)" In R. E. Landrum, M. A. McCarthy, R. E. Landrum & M. A. McCarthy (Eds.), *Teaching ethically: Challenges and opportunities*. (pp. 21-29). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.