

Course-Based Research

Information for Faculty

The following information may help you to decide if your course [requires Course-Based Research Ethics Approval](#) from GCREB.

A. If you answer YES to any of these questions, you need to obtain [course-based ethics approval](#) and submit related documents to GCREB prior to starting research project with students:

1. Are the assignment objectives connected to providing exposure to research methods?
2. Do the assignments in your course require students to practice data collection methods (used in research) with people?
3. Are these assignments structured to be minimal risk research activities?
 - Note: the determination of minimal risk is from the perspective of the participant. Minimal risk research involves activities or data gathering that is similar to what the participant would experience in their day-to-day life and is unlikely to cause embarrassment, anxiety, be of a personal nature or about a topic that is generally considered private. Any research involving vulnerable populations or Indigenous peoples may qualify as more than minimal risk.
4. **Please Note:** If you are recruiting human participants from [outside of your classroom](#) or require the use of Georgian College facilities, please submit an [RPARR form](#) along with your application for [Course-Based Research Involving Human Participants](#).

B. If you answer YES to any of the following questions, you are not eligible for course-based ethics approval and you MUST submit an individual Application for Research Ethics Approval to GCREB:

1. Do your students' collect data or engage in the research processes that contribute to your own personal research?
2. Will your students be conducting any research involving human participants that may be considered more than minimal risk, including but not limited to research involving vulnerable populations (e.g., minors, Indigenous Peoples, individuals with diminished capacity, or other vulnerable groups), the use of deception, the collection of sensitive or potentially distressing information, invasive procedures or interventions, activities that may expose participants to

physical, psychological, social, legal, economic, or cultural risks, or any activities that exceed those ordinarily encountered in participants' daily lives?

C. The activities below DO NOT require ethics approval:

- Using publicly available information about a person or people to write an essay
- Students talking with a patient or client to learn about their experiences and then using this information to write an essay that will be graded by the teacher
- Skills development activities which are considered standard practice within a profession (e.g. observation, assessment, intervention, evaluation, auditing), provided these activities do not constitute research as defined by the TCPS2. Examples of professional skills development that is not research include:
 - students talking with patients or clients (or practising with other students or their teacher) in order to provide a diagnosis, identify appropriate interventions, or give advice
 - interviewing someone in a profession about the procedures used at their workplace; this would not be research unless the data were collected in a systematic way to answer a research question such as, *“Do Simcoe County businesses follow Human Resources Professionals Association (HRPA) regulations?”*
 - collecting information from a client to complete their tax return
 - collecting information from a client to provide advice or a plan, e.g. a marketing plan
- Research skills using data that was collected anonymously, so long as identifiable information **cannot** be generated from its use; or using fictional data (e.g. data collected during practice interviews or surveys in which students roleplay rather than divulging personal information)

Next steps

If you have any questions or would like one-one-one consultation, please contact the REB office at reb@georgiancollege.ca or 705.722.5123.

If you need course-based research ethics approval for your course, submit application for [Course-Based Research Involving Human Participants](#) with your course outline/syllabus, related assignment details and TCPS2: CORE-2022 certificate of completion.