Does Your Project Require an Application to the TAMUCC Institutional Review Board (IRB)?

Will you, a member of your research team or a collaborator, observe, interact with, or intervene with individuals to gather information that will be used for research? Examples:
- Surveys, questionnaires, focus groups, interviews
- Games, experiments in physical or in electronic environments
- Physical or biomedical procedures – imaging, scanning, blood collection, anthropomorphic procedures
- Diet, nutrition studies, taste tests
- Studies examining effectiveness of educational tools or curricula
- Use of instruments or devices, including phones, to collect data or monitor or influence behavior
- Observation of public behavior in physical or online environments in which there is an expectation of privacy
- Studies examining individuals’ responses to manipulation of their physical or online environment
- Another activity that involves observation of, or interaction with, individuals to gather information for research

Is the information being collected ‘about’ individuals?

YES
- The focus of the project is on people or their opinions, perceptions, choices, decisions regarding themselves or how methods, policies, procedures, organizations, etc. affect them or their environment.

NO

Is this a course assignment?

YES

NO

Is the project an oral history, ethnographic, or journalistic piece?

YES

NO

Is this a quality assurance/quality improvement/organizational effectiveness study (i.e. to assess, improve, or develop programs or services for an organization)?

YES

NO

Will outcomes be generalized for other organizations, programs or services?

YES

NO

The focus of the project is on products, methods, policies, procedures, organizations: e.g., interviewing transportation staff and officials about parking or transportation policies and procedures.

Is the sole intent of the project to meet course requirements, with no intention to use the results outside of the course?

YES

NO

Does the project involve stories that will or may draw broad conclusions about the population, cultures, norms, and practices, even if no research hypothesis is being tested or validated?

YES

NO

Published materials will be limited to only documenting or reporting on events, situations, policies, institutions or systems without the intent to form hypotheses, draw conclusions, or generalize findings.

Not human participant research. No application to the IRB is needed.

Outcomes will remain specific to the organization, programs or services, although other organizations may use the results for their own programs.

Project is research with human subjects.

An applications to the IRB and written notice of approval required before the study can begin. Forms available at http://research.tamucc.edu/compliance/forms.html#irb Questions irb@tamucc.edu
Does Your Research Involving Secondary or Existing Data, Documents or Biological Specimens Require Review by the TAMUCC IRB

DECISION TREE #2

**Are the data/specimens about or from individuals who are or may be still living?**

**NO, Materials are from cadavers, or data is about deceased individuals**

**PROJECT IS NOT HUMAN SUBJECTS RESEARCH**
No application to the TAMUCC IRB needed.

**YES. Data is publically available**

- Are the specimens (human cell lines, tissue, etc.) obtained from a producer or supplier of public use data; or
- Is all the information about the specimens/data available in the public domain?

**NO**

Were/will the specimens/data (be) collected specifically for the research through an interaction or intervention with living individuals?

**YES**

**PROJECT IS HUMAN SUBJECTS RESEARCH**
Application to the IRB and written notice of approval or notice of exemption required before research can begin.

**NO**

Can the provider (researcher or organization that originally collected the data/specimens) link the specimens/data, directly or indirectly, to identifiable living individuals?

**NO. Data is de-identified**

Can the recipient (you and/or your research team) link the specimens/data directly to identifiable living individuals either directly or through a code?

**NO**

Is the provider a collaborator in the recipient’s research? i.e. involved in the design, conduct or reporting of the research and/or listed as collaborator and/or author on research proposals or protocols.

**YES**

Recipient has access to identifiable data

Recipient and Provider are collaborators on the research

All Forms at http://research.tamucc.edu/compliance/forms.html#irb
Questions? Contact tamucc@tamucc.edu
Decision trees adapted with permission from the Cornell University IRB Decision Tree-https://www.irb.cornell.edu