

# **Institutional Review Board Exempt Projects**

## **Ouachita Baptist University**

Research in which the only involvement of human participants is in one of the following categories is exempt from full IRB review, provided the researcher submits and obtains IRB approval of exemption. Research is NOT exempt if any targeted populations are legally incompetent; significantly mentally disordered or impaired; pregnant women; minor children (i.e., under the age of 18); or vulnerable to extraordinary coercion (e.g., prisoners, nursing home residents, etc.).

All procedures for all participants in a project must be exempt in order for the project to be exempt from full IRB review. Neither research involving deception techniques nor research exposing participants to discomfort or harassment beyond levels encountered in daily life is exempt.

### **Categories of Exemption**

If a project falls entirely into one of the following categories, the research may be exempt from continuing IRB review. Final determination of exempt status is the responsibility of the IRB. Application for exempt status is the responsibility of the investigator.

These categories represent minimal review requirements. The IRB reserves the right to require a stringent review of any study.

#### **Educational Practices**

Research conducted in commonly accepted educational settings, involving normal educational practices, such as

- research on regular and special education instructional strategies, or
- research on the effectiveness of or the comparison among instructional techniques, curricula or classroom management methods.

This exemption does not apply to the school records of identifiable students or interviewing instructors about students.

#### **Educational Tests**

Research involving the use of educational tests (cognitive, diagnostic, aptitude, achievement) is exempt, if either:

- In the researcher's private data (including field notes) as well as in any published material, observations are recorded in such a manner that individuals cannot be identified—directly or through identifiers linked to the participants; or
- The observations, even if disclosed outside the research, could not reasonably place the participants at risk of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to the participants' financial standing, employability, or reputation.

### **Surveying or Interviewing**

Research involving survey or interview procedures is exempt if either:

- In the researcher's private data (including field notes) as well as in any published material, observations are recorded in such a manner that individuals cannot be identified—directly or through identifiers linked to the participants; or
- The observations, even if disclosed outside the research, could not reasonably place the participants at risk of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to the participants' financial standing, employability, or reputation.

### **Public Observations**

Research involving the observation of public behavior, including observation by participants, is exempt if either:

- In the researcher's private data (including field notes) as well as in any published material, observations are recorded in such a manner that individuals cannot be identified—directly or through identifiers linked to the participants; or
- The observations, even if disclosed outside the research, could not reasonably place the participants at risk of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to the participants' financial standing, employability, or reputation.

### **Public Officials**

All research involving educational tests, survey or interview procedures, or public observations is exempt without exception when the respondents are elected or appointed public officials or candidates for public office.

### **Existing Data**

Research involving the collection or study of existing data, documents, records, pathological specimens, or diagnostic specimens is exempt if these sources are publicly available.

### **Program Evaluation**

Institutional research conducted by or under the supervision of department chairs, deans, or vice presidents for the purpose of program evaluation is exempt.

### **Taste Evaluation**

Taste and food quality evaluation and consumer acceptance studies are exempt if the food is wholesome and without additives.