

**Western Carolina University
Office of Research Administration
Institutional Review Board Standard Operating Procedures**

SOP# 216.1	TITLE: Faculty Research Involving Their Own Students	Date Effective: 3/23/2023 Last Revision Date: 11/3/2023
-------------------	---	--

I. Purpose

The recruitment process for researcher recruitment of their own current students must be done in a way that ensures their participation is completely voluntary while adhering to the Belmont Principles. Given the authority relationship between instructors and students, and the potential risk of students being subjected to coercion or undue influence, specific procedures may be necessary to minimize this risk.

II. Scope

This procedure is applicable to all researchers who plan to recruit their current students as research participants.

III. Definitions

Principal Investigator: WCU full time Faculty or Staff Member responsible for the content of the IRB application and the conduct of the study.

Research Personnel: any individual who is involved in conducting human subjects research studies. Such involvement may include:

- obtaining information about living individuals by intervening or interacting with them for research purposes;
- obtaining identifiable private information about living individuals for research purposes;
- obtaining the voluntary informed consent of individuals to be subjects in research; and
- studying, interpreting, or analyzing identifiable private information or data for research purposes.

V. Procedures

1. The PI/Research Personnel should include information in the appropriate section of the IRB application submission that students will be the target population for the study.
2. If the PI/Research Personnel is recruiting students from a class currently instructed by one of the PI/Research Personnel listed on the IRB application, this relationship with the participants must be addressed in the appropriate section of the IRB application. The PI/Research Personnel must also describe the methods that will be used to mitigate or reduce undue influence. For example, this could involve including the following statement, or something similar, in the recruitment and consent process/documents: "Your decision to participate or not participate in this study will have no bearing on your grades or class standing."
 - a. If the use of the PI/Research Personnel's own students is integral to the research study being proposed, the PI/Research Personnel should consider asking a

colleague or coinvestigator who has no influence over grades to conduct the recruitment and consent process.

- b. If possible, the research data, including signed consent forms, should be held by a third party not affiliated with the research until after the course ends.
 - c. If course credit is offered as an incentive, the IRB application and consent form must describe a non-research alternative method to earn the same amount of course credit that involves an equivalent amount of time and effort as participating in the research activity.
 - d. If possible, the research data should not be reviewed/analyzed by the PI/Research Personnel until after the class has ended and grades have been posted.
- 3.

IV. Responsibilities

1. PI/Research Personnel have the responsibility to:
 - a. Ensure that students can truly understand what research participation involves and can distinguish voluntary research activities from required course activities.
 - b. Adhere to the recruitment process expectations outlined in SOP# 214.1
 - c. Provide a justification for why it is necessary to include one's student in the research, versus another population in which one has less influence.
2. Research compliance office is responsible for:
 - a. Reviewing the proposed procedures to ensure that the appropriate measures have been taken to mitigate risks of undue influence over student participants.
 - b. Following regular procedures for review or reviewer assignment as indicated in SOP#202.1

VII. References

45 C.F.R. § 46.111

SOP #214.1 Recruitment of Research Participants

OHRP Guidance on Student Subject Pools and Use of Penalties for Students Who Fail to Show Up for Scheduled Research Appointments: <https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/guidance/january-08-2010-student-subject-pools-and-use-of-penalties/index.html>