

Exempt Categories Eligible for Exempt Review

All human subjects research projects must undergo review and approval by an IRB prior to initiation of research activities. Exempt reviews are conducted by at least one reviewer, and an exempt determination requires that the research must be minimal risk and fall into one or more of the exempt categories described below.

Minimal risk as defined by federal regulations is the probability and magnitude of harm or discomfort anticipated in the research are not greater in and of themselves than those ordinarily encountered in daily life or during the performance of routine physical or psychological examinations or tests.

Exempt Categories:

1. Educational research
2. Surveys, interviews, educational tests, public observations (that do not involve children)
3. Benign behavioral interventions
4. Analysis of previously collected identifiable info/specimens
5. Federal research/demonstration research
6. Taste and food evaluation research
7. Storage or maintenance of identifiable info/specimens
8. Secondary research use of identifiable info/specimens

Category 1 - Education research

Research, conducted in established or commonly accepted educational settings, that specifically involves normal educational practices that are not likely to adversely impact students' opportunity to learn required educational content or the assessment of educators who provide instruction. This includes most research on regular and special education instructional strategies, and research on the effectiveness of or the comparison among instructional techniques, curricula, or classroom management methods.

Examples:

- A study comparing the two different teaching methods in public high schools.
- An experiment evaluating the impact of a new technology tool in a college course.
- A study assessing the effects of class size on engagement in elementary schools.

Category 2 - Surveys, interviews, educational tests, public observations

Research that only includes interactions involving educational tests (cognitive, diagnostic, aptitude, achievement), survey procedures, interview procedures, or observation of public behavior (including visual or auditory recording) if at least one of the following criteria is met:

1. The information obtained is recorded by the investigator in such a manner that the identity of the human subjects cannot readily be ascertained, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects.
2. Any disclosure of the human subjects' responses outside the research would not reasonably place the subjects at risk of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to the subjects' financial standing, employability, educational advancement, or reputation;
or
3. The information obtained is recorded by the investigator in such a manner that the identity of the human subjects can readily be ascertained, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects.

Examples:

- A survey assessing the prevalence of depression symptoms in college students.
- An interview with adults about their experiences with public transportation.
- An observational study on the behaviors of college students during lunch time.

Category 3 - Benign Behavioral Interventions

Research involving benign behavioral interventions in conjunction with the collection of information from an adult subject through verbal or written responses (including data entry) or audiovisual recording if the subject prospectively agrees to the intervention and information collection and at least one of the following criteria is met:

1. The information obtained is recorded by the investigator in such a manner that the identity of the human subjects cannot readily be ascertained, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects.
2. Any disclosure of the human subjects' responses outside the research would not reasonably place the subjects at risk of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to the subjects' financial standing, employability, educational advancement, or reputation;
or
3. The information obtained is recorded by the investigator in such a manner that the identity of the human subjects can readily be ascertained, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects.

Examples:

- A study examining whether mealtime preparation training improves weight loss.
- A study examining whether meditation improves stress level.
- A study examining whether physical exercises reduce fall risk among older adults.

Category 4 - Analysis of previously collected identifiable info/biospecimens

Secondary research for which consent is not required: Secondary research uses of identifiable private information or identifiable biospecimens, if at least one of the following criteria is met:

1. The identifiable private information or identifiable biospecimens are publicly available;
2. Information, which may include information about biospecimens, is recorded by the investigator in such a manner that the identity of the human subjects cannot readily be ascertained directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects, the investigator does not contact the subjects, and the investigator will not re-identify subjects;
3. The research involves only information collection and analysis involving the investigator's use of identifiable health information when that use is regulated under 45 CFR parts 160 and 164, subparts A and E, for the purposes of "health care operations" or "research" as those terms are defined at 45 CFR 164.501 or for "public health activities and purposes" as described under 45 CFR 164.512(b); or
4. The research is conducted by, or on behalf of, a Federal department or agency using government-generated or government-collected information obtained for nonresearch activities, if the research generates identifiable private information that is or will be maintained on information technology that is subject to and in compliance with section 208(b) of the E-Government Act of 2002, 44 U.S.C. 3501 note, if all of the identifiable private information collected, used, or generated as part of the activity will be maintained in systems of records subject to the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a, and, if applicable, the information used in the research was collected subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.

Examples:

1. A study analyzing publicly available data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the prevalence of smoking in Long Beach.
2. A study analyzing letters, diaries, and newspapers from 2000 to study the daily life and social dynamics of a particular community.
3. A study using de-identified genomic data available in a public database to study the genetic basis of a particular disease.

Category 5 - Federal research/demonstration research

Research and demonstration projects that are conducted or supported by a Federal department or agency, or otherwise subject to the approval of department or agency heads (or the approval of the heads of bureaus or other subordinate agencies that have been delegated authority to conduct the research and demonstration projects), and that are designed to study, evaluate, improve, or otherwise examine public benefit or service programs, including procedures for obtaining benefits or services under those programs, possible changes in or alternatives to those programs or procedures, or possible changes in methods or levels of payment for benefits

or services under those programs. Such projects include, but are not limited to, internal studies by Federal employees, and studies under contracts or consulting arrangements, cooperative agreements, or grants. Exempt projects also include waivers of otherwise mandatory requirements using authorities such as sections 1115 and 1115A of the Social Security Act, as amended.

Examples:

- A federally funded research project evaluating the effectiveness of a new online system for applying for unemployment benefits.
- A demonstration project conducted by a federal agency to evaluate the effectiveness of a new public housing program.
- A federally funded research project investigating the effectiveness of different methods of payment for Medicare services.

Category 6 - Taste and food evaluation research

Taste and food quality evaluation and consumer acceptance studies:

1. If wholesome foods without additives are consumed, or
2. If a food is consumed that contains a food ingredient at or below the level and for a use found to be safe, or agricultural chemical or environmental contaminant at or below the level found to be safe, by the Food and Drug Administration or approved by the Environmental Protection Agency or the Food Safety and Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Examples:

- A study where participants taste and rate different flavors of ice cream for a new brand.
- A study where participants evaluate the texture, aroma, and appearance of a new line of bakery products.
- A study where participants taste and rate a new line of non-alcoholic beverages for a beverage company.

At this time, CSULB IRB will not implement category 7 - Storage or maintenance of identifiable info/specimens and category 8 - Secondary research use of identifiable info/specimens.