

PEAK Inquiry Project: IRB Considerations

Amanda Udis-Kessler, Permanent Chair of the CC Institutional Review Board, June 12, 2021

Most PEAK Inquiry projects do not require students, faculty, or staff to interact with the Colorado College IRB (Institutional Review Board, the human subjects research ethics committee) but some projects might. The below examples represent IRB guidance based on a mid-June 2021 review of the PEAK Inquiry project page; as always, please contact me (audiskessler@coloradocollege.edu) with questions or if you are not sure whether a PEAK Inquiry project requires interaction with the IRB.

The IRB website is <https://www.coloradocollege.edu/other/irb/> and all forms are on the homepage.

The following types of projects DO NOT require any interaction with the IRB:

- Any project that does not collect personal information from living people (these projects include biological research, archival historical research, or legal research involving already published material)
- Creative productions, such as films, that are not intended to contribute to generalizable knowledge
- Program evaluation of an organization's projects
- Energy audits and similarly non-academic, practical projects

The following types of projects require interacting with the IRB to obtain an exemption (the term "exemption" has a specific legal meaning; this project is simpler than a full IRB application but does require submission of forms and interaction with the IRB):

- Interviews, surveys, or focus groups of adults only (no children) that collect information with the intent to contribute to potentially generalizable knowledge, such as certain political research. Projects like this require you to complete the Interaction Research Exemption Determination Form and some additional materials and submit these to the IRB Chair.
- Secondary data analysis of personal information collected previously and/or for a different purpose. Projects like this require you to complete the Secondary Research Exemption Determination Form (there are no additional materials required) and submit this form to the IRB Chair.

Projects that involve collecting information specifically about educational experiences from children (anyone under the age of 18) may be eligible for the Educational Research Exemption; researchers should complete the Educational Research Exemption Determination Form and submit this form to the IRB Chair.

Projects that involve collecting information from children other than information specifically about educational experiences require submission of a full IRB application to the IRB Chair, and may involve a variety of additional materials.

If your project requires interaction with the IRB (or may require it), please contact me at your earliest convenience at the email address above.