

## Which IRB Will Review My Research? Ohio University IRB Guidance

**Purpose:** To ensure consistency in IRB routing, allow OU to benefit from the strengths and expertise of each IRB, and balance workflows to each IRB to the extent possible.

**Scope:** This guidance applies to all studies to be reviewed by an OU IRB.

Non-exempt human subject research studies submitted for review will be routed to one of OU's two Institutional Review Boards (IRB) based on which IRB has the most appropriate expertise to review the proposed research methodology. Generally, submissions will be routed as follows:

Social Behavioral IRB will review studies that:

- generate data by means of
  - questionnaires/surveys, interviews, and focus groups
  - observation (nonclinical)
- evaluate educational curriculum and outcomes
- analyze existing records (not medical records)
- experimental designs involving exposure to some type of non-biomedical stimulus or intervention

Biomedical IRB will review studies that:

- are designed to evaluate the safety, effectiveness, or usefulness of an intervention including research on therapies (e.g., drugs, diet, exercise, surgical interventions, or medical devices; all studies that fall under FDA regulations)
- use diagnostic procedures (e.g., CAT scans, x-rays)
- include collection and/or analysis of biospecimens (e.g., blood draws, urine samples, saliva samples)
- require subjects to engage in intense physical activity
- investigate preventive measures for illness or disease
- review existing records related to medical care or treatment (Protected Health Information)
- include surveys, focus groups, interviews or other qualitative approaches when conducted in addition to one or more of the previous bullet points or when used for the evaluation of medical treatment or intervention
- focus on the evaluation or assessment of hands-on clinical or practical educational activities within the Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine or the College of Health Sciences and Professions

Each IRB may consult with the other as needed for additional insight or expertise.