

Classroom-based Research: Using students as subjects

This seminar hosted by the University Committee on Activities Involving Human Subjects (UCHAIS) covers the basics of research by and on students from both NYU and NYC schools. The summary below is based on notes from the Fall 2011 session of Classroom-based Research.

Undergraduate classroom research

Students only need approval to conduct class-based research if the results will EVER be disseminated beyond the classroom, the results are generalizable and data collection is systematic (involves multiple subjects). Students cannot obtain retroactive approval of their data. Requests for retroactive approval often arise when a student's findings reveal something they want to publish. However, you cannot obtain retroactive approval, so it is best to obtain approval in advance. Like all other research, student projects must be ethically appropriate. In addition they should generally not be conducted among vulnerable populations.

NYU students as study participants

Be wary that students are paying for an education, not to be a participant in studies and that by you grading your students you have potentially coercive power over them. That said, you can conduct research on your students.

To avoid coercion you can consider using a third party for recruitment, emphasizing that the professor will not know who has participated and any results will not be traceable back to the participant

NYC school students as participants

When using students in NYC schools as participants you need letters from the school principals, consents from teachers and parents, assents from students, and, if it is a public school, Board of Education approval. Some private schools have an internal trustee that they use in lieu of Board of Education approval, but some still require Board of Education approval. If you are seeking Board of Education approval, you need UCH AIS approval first and should plan to seek BOTH approvals 6 months prior to data collection.

Other helpful hints

- Data collected as part of quality control can receive retrospective IRB approval under exempt category 4.
- When conducting a study with other organizations or universities, UCH AIS prefers that the collaborator get their IRB approval prior to you submitting to NYU (so you can include their approval in your application).

For More Information:

[University Committee on Activities Involving Human Subjects](#) (UCH AIS)

Contact for Protocol Questions: Ask.humansubjects@nyu.edu or (212) 998-4808