

Graduate Student Research and IRB Policy

Graduate student research refers to research conducted to fulfill graduate degree requirements, i.e., preparation of master's theses, master's projects, and doctoral dissertations. Graduate student research involving human subjects is subject to the California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) Institutional Review Board (IRB) submission and review requirements.

Graduate students who conducted human subject research for their thesis/project/dissertation must provide a copy of their IRB approval letter to the Office of Graduate Studies with their form for final submission of their thesis/project/dissertation.

For more information on defining research with human subjects, please visit the CSUSB IRB website at <https://www.csusb.edu/institutional-review-board>.

When should I seek IRB approval?

Students completing theses/projects/dissertations that involve human subjects research or clinical investigations with human subjects (as defined under 45 CFR 46) must receive formal approval or an exempt determination from CSUSB IRB *before* initiation of any human subject research activities.

For those theses/projects/dissertations that may qualify as exempt from IRB approval, an exempt determination must be obtained from the CSUSB IRB office prior to initiation of the human subject research. For those theses/projects/dissertations that may qualify for expedited and full-board review, IRB approval must be obtained prior to initiation of the human subject research.

Students completing theses/projects/dissertations that DO NOT meet the 45 CFR 46 definitions of human subjects research can secure a [non-human subjects research determination](#) letter from CSUSB IRB.

Approved by CSUSB Graduate Council on 2/15/23