

## Guidelines for Classroom Projects

Data collected as part of a pedagogical technique or process (also known as the “classroom project”) is protected under this policy. Faculty should assume that ALL data collected from students while they are enrolled at the University should be evaluated using the same criteria and standards as data collected separate from the classroom. Because the student in a class is a “captive participant” and because the act of collecting data in said class is very difficult to realistically separate from the evaluative component of courses from the perspective of the student, ASU will no longer offer *de facto* approval of these activities. However, there are certain types of projects that do qualify for exemption from this policy, listed below. In accordance with the Texas Tech University System and the Texas Tech IRB procedures, the following project types will be considered exempt from IRB jurisdiction:

- Teacher & student evaluations
- Program evaluations for internal purposes
- Marketing research designed to market the institution as a product
- Classroom projects conducted for didactic purposes that do not extend beyond the classroom (i.e. do not contribute to generalizable knowledge)
- Oral history

If the given project is not represented on the list above, it is still possible for the data collection event to be considered a “classroom project” if the following criteria apply: 1) the data must be collected as part of a classroom lecture or activity and cannot exist as a dataset beyond a period of one (1) semester; 2) the data must be clearly and explicitly disconnected from any aspect of the students’ grades in the course; and 3) the questions asked cannot involve, knowingly or unknowingly, discernible risk to the students.

Example 1: An instructor collects data in a Government class on opinions of the new health care law. This data is used to make a lecture point and is destroyed after the class is over. This activity does NOT require IRB approval and meet the guidelines for a “classroom project.”

Example 2: An instructor collects data on the first day of class, keeps the data until the end of class, collects data again on the same questions, and then presents the data to the class as it concludes. This activity does NOT require IRB approval, assuming that the data does not violate Guidelines (2) and (3) above.

Example 3: An instructor in a sociology class collects data from students on self-reported sexual experiences in high school, uses the data to make a point in that class, and destroys the data after class is over. This activity DOES require IRB approval, as it violates Guideline (3) above.

Example 4: An instructor in a political science course collects qualitative data on voting disenfranchisement in the U.S. by adding the question to the end of a test. There is no indication that the question is part of the students’ test grades. This activity DOES require IRB approval, as it violates Guideline (2) above.

Questions regarding this and other IRB guidelines should be directed to the Chair of the IRB.