



## Guidelines for the Recruitment and Involvement of Students as Subjects in Research

This policy clarification is meant to facilitate the participation of student subjects for research purposes in an atmosphere that both encourages serious research and at the same time promotes respect for the rights of subjects consistent with the ethical principles of the American Psychological Association, the Belmont Report and the Catholic Church.

All of the following guidelines are understood to fall within and be in compliance with current regulations and principles governing the protection of human subjects in research as practiced by the St. John's University Institutional Review Board (IRB). This means, of course, that no subjects may be recruited before IRB approval of the research protocol has been obtained. The definition of "research" used here is that given in 45 Code of Federal Regulations 46 (as promulgated 8/19/91) and is understood to apply to behavioral and non-behavioral research. "Researcher" means any administrator, faculty member or student engaged in research and includes any person working as part of such a principal investigator's research team.

Students at St. John's University may be recruited and involved as subjects in research under the following conditions:

1. Students may not be coerced under any circumstances to participate in research projects. All research participation must be undertaken on a voluntary basis according to the IRB regulations defining informed consent. A clearly written description, not in disciplinary jargon, of the project, including a clear statement of the proposed student participation, must be to the potential "research participants" prior to obtaining informed consent. The process of obtaining consent must include opportunity for the potential subject to ask questions of the research.
2. The choice to participate or not participate may not be reflected in the student's grade in any way, neither positively nor punitively, and this assurance must be made clear in the recruiting process. The researcher may not suggest explicitly or implicitly that participation will affect grades, nor may he/she allow to pass unchallenged any statement by student subjects which reveals an assumption of such a correlation. The researcher, in fact, must make every reasonable effort to dispel any student skepticism about this assurance as part of the process of obtaining informed consent. Any student who volunteers as a research subject believing his/her grade may benefit cannot be considered a fully informed, independent subject.
3. The student must clearly be informed that he/she has the right to refuse to participate, or to refuse to continue to participate at any point in the procedure (if the research has already begun), without immediate or future punitive consequences of any kind.
4. The student must be clearly informed that he/she may refuse to participate without being so identified.
5. No academic incentives, whether for credit or for grades, may be offered to encourage student volunteers for research.
6. Solicitation of volunteer student subjects for research must not be done in class in a coercive manner by the instructor for that class or by his/her graduate fellows or assistants. Subjects should also be recruited by a central posting or announcement mechanism which is equally available to all students outside that classroom setting or through extra or co-curricular activities.



7. Classes involving research methodology which uses demonstrations (assessment instruments, etc.) may not require student participation in such demonstrations, nor may such demonstrations be made part of the grade. Courses may not make participation in a research project (as subject) part of a course requirement; students who volunteer or work as research assistants, however, are not subjects of research and are not, therefore, subject to these guidelines. If a student chooses not to participate in such demonstrations or in a research project as a subject, the instructor must provide a reasonable/comparable assignment.
8. Any faculty or student recruiter for student subjects in his/her research is expected to show ethical sensitivity for and professional awareness of the potential conditions of coercion which students may be subject to in university research settings and to take every reasonable precaution to avoid such coercion, whether explicit or implied. Responsible scientific arguments urging student to volunteer as "research participants" in the advancement of the discipline and of science or describing the knowledge they may acquire in the process are legitimate.
9. All students volunteering as subjects for research shall be given a copy of these guidelines as part of the process of obtaining informed consent.
10. The ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY Institutional Review Board will be responsible to review all research protocols which propose to use student subjects for conformity with these and all other human subject protection guidelines. These guidelines will be included in all new editions of the ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY Institutional Review Board Handbook and will be made available to all students through publication in St. John's Today, The Torch, The Arrow, through publication in the Student Handbook, and through distribution in all classes deemed appropriate, and available in all Dean's offices.
11. Individual researchers are urged to take all reasonable [precautions to protect the reputation of St. John's University when reporting findings that have the potential to unfairly reflect on the University's reputation in some way. Unpublished reports of research, statements such as, "data gathered from students of a large northeastern, urban university" or "data gathered at a large metropolitan university/college" are suggested.

NB: Until such time as the Guidelines for the Participation of Subjects in Behavioral & Social Science Research are revised, these guidelines will supercede the student sections of that document.