

BSC Policy on Research involving Human Subjects/ Establishment of Institutional Review Board

Statement of Principles and Purpose

Birmingham-Southern College (hereinafter “the College”) recognizes and affirms that human subjects should be treated with dignity and respect in the conduct of research. Further, the College understands and accepts its role to protect the welfare of human subjects in such research. To insure such treatment and protections, as well as compliance with the Code of Federal Regulations Title 45, Part 46 (hereinafter “Common Rule”), the College establishes an Institutional Review Board (hereinafter “IRB”).

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, *research* is defined as it is in the federal Common Rule (Part 46.102) as “a systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge.” *Human subject* is therein defined as “a living individual about whom an investigator (whether professional or student) conducting research obtains (1) data through intervention or interaction with the individual, or (2) identifiable private information.”

Applicability

This policy applies to all proposed and on-going research involving human subjects conducted or supported in whole or in part by faculty, staff or students of the College. This policy applies to all such research regardless of sponsorship or support (federal or otherwise).

Function and Authority of the IRB

The IRB shall review all research proposals involving human subjects conducted at or sponsored in some part by the College. It will also periodically review on-going research involving human subjects as required. The IRB reviews will focus on the evaluation of potential risks to human subjects and conformity of the proposed research with the requirements set forth in the federal Common Rule. All research involving human subjects shall require IRB approval or exemption prior to commencement or continuation.

IRB Composition

IRB members shall be appointed by the College Provost. The IRB shall consist of no fewer than 5 members and shall include, at minimum, the following: 1 member from a scientific field, 1 member from a non-scientific field, and 1 member who is neither employed nor affiliated with the College (nor has a family member with such a College tie). The IRB must include both male and female members and must not consist entirely of members of one profession. A Chairperson shall also be appointed from among the members by the College Provost to lead the IRB."

IRB Procedures

The conduct of business by the IRB shall be in accord with the stipulations set forth in the federal Common Rule and shall be in keeping with its mission. Standard procedures shall be developed for the submission of research proposals for review, expedited review, application for IRB exemption, proposal evaluation, deliberations, approval, denial, and feedback.