

COM 200 IRB Certification Assignment

IRB stands for Institutional Review Board. Each university has one and to do research, even as a student, you should be certified. Conducting research ethically is a critical component of doing responsible research in academic or applied settings. Severe consequences can occur when guidelines are not followed. This assignment requires you to complete the basic certification for interacting responsibly with human subjects when carrying out research. While this IRB certification does take a while and may, at times, feel like “overkill” or “busy work” being certified and having the documentation to prove it is far more beneficial than just reading a chapter on research ethics.

Point Value: 30 points.

Goals:

1. To review and deepen your knowledge and appreciation for ethical dimensions of research.
2. To achieve certification so that you are able to participate in future research projects.

Key Core Skills: The following core skills are emphasized in this assignment: 1) responsibility, 2) problem solving, 3) civility and 4) praxis.

Basic Steps:

1. Log onto the following webpage: <http://uncw.edu/ors/documents/HowToRegisterforCITITraining.pdf>
2. There will be directions for how to register at the CITI site to take the appropriate training for student assistant or student researcher. Read through these directions CAREFULLY then follow the link to the CITI site. BE SURE TO SAVE YOUR PASSWORD!! (make it an Outlook contact)
3. Follow the directions carefully and take the training for **The Social and Behavioral Research Investigators group** (not administrators group). This is appropriate for most research conducted at UNCW.
4. Each member will individually take the course though you can choose to work through the material together. Plan on 2 hours or so. (Sorry about that!!)
5. Each member must achieve the necessary percentage of correct answers to earn a certificate. Each member will then print a *Completion Report* and hand it in by the due date.
6. Each member should make an additional copy for your COM 490 portfolio. Ideally you should save an electronic copy as well such as printing it to Adobe PDF. If you have not started a COM 490 folder/notebook and electronic file do so ASAP.

Key Criteria for Grading

This assignment is graded pass/fail. You will be awarded full credit if you hand in the report and certificate of completion by the due date (see schedule of sessions for due date).

Some Hints

- Don't get bogged down just because it seems a bit “graduate school.” Look for connections, don't focus on differences.
- Do not wait until the last minute to complete this assignment. Computer problems, printer problems, internet connection problems, etc. are not reasons to excuse a late submission.
- Remember the basic insights and principles as you plan research in this class and beyond. Even though we are only doing a proposal for research project two, ethical considerations such as those highlighted through this training are important in that assignment.