

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 educational and professional 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 being certified and having the documentation to prove it is far more beneficial than just reading a chapter on research ethics. You will be taking the **Basic Human Subjects Protection** course.

Point Value: 30 points. **This is an individual assignment: each person must compete it.**

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.

1. Basic Steps: Log onto the following webpage: <http://uncw.edu/research/compliance/human.html> and find the heading “**IRB Training Requirements**” on the right side of the webpage. Find the link that says, “Click here for instructions...”
2. Follow the instructions CAREFULLY as the CITI registration process can be confusing. Follow the link to the CITI site. BE SURE TO SAVE YOUR PASSWORD!! You may need to show that you’ve completed this for other classes! If you keep your password you can get back in to obtain your certificate or update it.
3. Follow the directions carefully and take the training for **The Social and Behavioral Research Investigators Learner Group**. This is appropriate for most research conducted at UNCW.
4. Each student will individually take the course though you can choose to work through the material together. Plan on an hour or so.
5. Each member must individually an average score of at least 80% to earn a certificate. Each student will then print a *Completion Report* and hand it in by the due date.
6. Each student should make an additional copy for your COM 400 portfolio. Ideally you should save an electronic copy as well such as printing it to Adobe PDF. If you have not started a COM 400 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.