

Projects Requiring Bard IRB Review

The Bard IRB will review research projects involving human subject participants from Bard faculty (Annandale, Early Colleges, BPI, BGIA, and Longy), staff, and individual student research projects mentored by a faculty member (e.g., senior projects and graduate theses).

The Bard IRB will not review human subject research projects related to any class or seminar. These projects are unlikely to meet the Federal definition of “generalizability” as a vast majority of the work will not be publicly available or result in publication. Additionally, these projects typically involve low-risk interviews, surveys and/or questionnaires and would be deemed as “Exempt” from IRB review. Under exceptional circumstances (e.g., the work might become part of a senior project), and upon request from the faculty member, an in-class project may be reviewed by the IRB. However, such occasions should be rare.

While class and seminar projects involving human subjects do not require IRB review, the students should know about the principles underpinning the protection of the individuals involved, for example:

- How to protect the participants from coercion and risk
- The importance of informed consent
- The importance of confidentiality
- How to secure data

For such in-class projects, the IRB suggests that students provide an information sheet, similar to a consent form, to all potential project participants; please see the document entitled “Human Subject Research Information Sheet” detailing the creation of this document.

Note: In-class/seminar human subject research projects may not involve children (individuals under 18).

If you have any questions, please reach out the Bard IRB at irb@bard.edu.