

Is my research exempt from review? Hendrix College Human Subjects Review Board

Under the January 2018 changes to the Common Rule, certain categories of research are now exempt from review. If your research falls under one of these categories, then you will need to submit a Self-Determination Form to the HSRB. You *do not* have to submit a full proposal, unless it is determined that your research does not qualify for exemption.

To qualify for exemption, your study must fall under one of the below categories and *not* involve any of the following:

- Undisclosed deception (i.e., participants are unaware that deception will be occurring)
- Physiological measures (data collected from a FitBit, EEG, etc.)
- Personally identifiable information that could connect subjects' data back to them
- The use of the following vulnerable populations: children, pregnant women, prisoners, individuals with cognitive impairments, elderly participants, economically- or educationally-disadvantaged individuals
- More emotional, physical, legal, social, mental, or financial risk than the average person would experience in everyday life

Categories of Exemption

(note. Other, less common categories of exemption are available for review on page 7262 of <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-01-19/pdf/2017-01058.pdf>)

1. **Educational research:** Research, conducted in established or commonly accepted educational settings, that specifically involves normal educational practices that are **not likely to adversely impact students' opportunity to learn** required educational content or the assessment of educators who provide instruction. This includes most research on regular and special education instructional strategies, and research on the effectiveness of or the comparison among instructional techniques, curricula, or classroom management methods.
2. **Surveys, interviews, educational tests, and observation of public behavior:** Research that only includes interactions involving educational tests (cognitive, diagnostic, aptitude, achievement), survey procedures, interview procedures, or observation of public behavior (including visual or auditory recording). Oral history research is included in this category.
3. **Benign behavioral interventions:** Research involving benign behavioral interventions (interventions that are brief in duration, harmless, painless, not physically invasive, not likely to have a significant adverse lasting impact on the subjects, and the investigator has no reason to think the subjects will find the interventions offensive or embarrassing) in conjunction with the collection of information from an adult subject through verbal or written responses (including data entry) or audiovisual recording if the subject prospectively agrees to the intervention and information collection
4. **Secondary research:** Research that involves using data that have already been collected, including data that are publicly available or recorded so they cannot be traced back to the participants.