

## Ethical Review Process for Course-Based Research at Langara

Any instructor wishing to offer a course that requires or allows students to engage in research involving human participants must submit their course proposal for ethical review and approval to the Langara College Research Ethics Board (LC-REB) prior to offering the course. Such review will normally be conducted by the chair of the LC-REB or someone delegated by the chair. In some circumstances (described below), review by the Langara College Research Ethics Board (LC-REB) may be required. This document describes when course-based research involving humans is reviewable by the chair or delegate and when it must be reviewed by the full LC-REB. It also outlines procedures for ethical review of course-based research involving humans.

### 1. Eligibility for Course-Based Ethics Review

Course-based research involving humans must be conducted *solely for pedagogical purposes* in order to be eligible for delegated review by the LC-REB chair or another member of the LC-REB. Such research must involve living human participants, and it must involve students in activities that, at least notionally, reflect undertakings intended to extend knowledge through a disciplined inquiry or systematic investigation. Course-based research that is not conducted solely for pedagogical purposes will normally be reviewed by the full LC-REB and follow a separate review process.

#### Examples:

A. A statistics course plans to require students to conduct their own research involving humans in order to teach research methodology and the application of statistics to such methodology. Students are required to design their own research studies, either individually or in groups, and recruit participants and collect and analyze data. This is research involving humans that is conducted solely for pedagogical purposes and is eligible for review by the LC-REB chair or delegate.

B. A psychology instructor plans to teach research methodology by having students collect data from living human participants that will contribute to her own research or to another researcher's project. This is not research conducted solely for pedagogical purposes and so must be reviewed by the full LC-REB.

C. A business instructor or program has a partnership arrangement with a marketing agency to conduct marketing research. Langara students will be involved in the marketing agency's research activities to gain experience with marketing research. Since the marketing research is not conducted solely for pedagogical purposes, it must be [reviewed by the full LC-REB](#).

### 2. Exceptions

If the course-based research involving humans i) relies exclusively on publicly available information or observations of people in public places, and there is no reasonable expectation of privacy, or ii) relies exclusively on anonymous information (i.e., information that never had personal identifiers attached to it) and is not combined with other information that would permit identification of individuals, it does not require any ethical review. See [Does My Research Require Ethical Review?](#) for further information.

### **3. Course-Based Research Ethics Review Process**

An instructor planning to offer a course that requires or allows students to participate in course-based research solely for pedagogical purposes shall complete the [\*Langara Course-Based Research Application\*](#) and submit it to the LC-REB.

A schedule of deadlines for submission of course-based research applications is published on the Langara Research Ethics website. Instructors are encouraged to observe these deadlines. However, applications for ethics review of course-based research will be received at any time. The review will endeavour to be completed within 5 working days.

Once the reviewer is satisfied that the course proposal meets appropriate standards, s/he shall designate the course as a "Research Ethics Approved Course." The designation shall remain in effect as long as there are no changes to the nature of the research methods that are being utilized and the mechanisms for ethics training and oversight of student research remain the same. If any of these elements changes, an amendment to the LC-REB shall be submitted in writing and approved before the changes are implemented.

For further information or clarification about Langara policy regarding research involving humans see [\*Policy B5007 Ethical Conduct for Research involving Humans\*](#).

If you have any questions, please contact the chair of the LC-REB at [ethics@langara.bc.ca](mailto:ethics@langara.bc.ca).