

# **Langara College**

## **Course-Based Research**

### **Ethical Review Process**

Any instructor wishing to offer a course that requires or allows students to engage in research involving data collection from living human participants must submit a course proposal for ethical review and obtain approval prior to offering the course. Such review will normally be conducted by the chair of the Langara Research Ethics Board (LREB) or a board member delegated by the chair. In some circumstances, review by the full LREB may be required. This document describes when course-based research involving humans is reviewable by the LREB chair or delegate and when it must be reviewed by the full LREB. 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 review by the LREB chair or another LREB member. Such research involves collecting data from living human participants and will 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 involves collecting data from living humans that is not conducted solely for pedagogical purposes will normally be reviewed by the full LREB and follow a separate review process. All course-based research must be "minimal risk" according to the [Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans](#).

#### 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 LREB chair or delegate. Information on applications for [course-based research](#) at Langara can be found on the LREB website.

B. A psychology instructor plans to teach research methodology by having students collect data from human participants that will contribute in part to her own research or another researcher's study. This is not research conducted solely for pedagogical purposes and so must be reviewed by the full LREB. Information regarding applications for [full LREB ethics review](#) are on the LREB website.

C. A business instructor or program has a partnership arrangement with a marketing agency to conduct marketing research that involves collecting data from consumers.

Langara students will be involved in the marketing research agency's data collection 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 Langara REB. Here (once more) is the [link](#) to information regarding applications to the full Langara-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, including discussion of some other less common exceptions.

## **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 an [application form for Course-Based Research](#) and submit it to the LREB Chair at [ethics@langara.ca](mailto:ethics@langara.ca).

A schedule of deadlines for [submission and meetings](#) is published on the Langara Research Ethics website. Instructors are encouraged to observe these deadlines. However, applications will be received at any time. The review will endeavour to be completed within five working days from receipt of the application. Data collection from living human participants cannot commence until the instructor's application is approved.

Once the LREB 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 utilized and the mechanisms for ethics training and oversight of student research remain the same. If any of these elements changes, an amendment shall be submitted in writing to the LREB chair. The amendment must be 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 LREB Chair at [ethics@langara.ca](mailto:ethics@langara.ca).

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