IRB Decision Tree #1

Does my project require IRB approval?

Will you, a member of your research team or, a collaborator observe, interact with, or intervene with living individuals to gather information that will be used for research?

Examples:
- Surveys, questionnaires, focus groups, interviews
- Physical/Electronic games, experiments, or tasks
- Biomedical/Physical procedures, e.g. imagine, scanning, blood collection, exercise, etc.
- Diet or nutrition studies, taste tests
- Studies on effectiveness of educational strategies, teaching methods, curricula
- Use of instruments, sensors, electronic devices, apps, software, or recording mechanisms (e.g., video, screen capture, key logging, etc.) to collect data or monitor or influence behavior
- Passive observation of private behavior (in physical/online environments, incl. social media)
- Any other activity that involves observation of, or interaction with, individuals to gather information for research (in physical or online environments, including social media)

Refer to IRB Decision Tree #2 (Secondary Use of Data) and/or Non-human Subject Research guidance, as applicable.

Is the information being collected ‘about’ individuals?

YES

NO

Is this a class assignment or project?

YES

NO

Is the sole intent of the project to meet course requirements, and the results will not be used for something other than the course assignment?

YES

NO

Will information be used by the researchers to draw broad conclusions about a population, culture, or norms and practices even if no research hypothesis is being tested or validated?

YES

NO

Is the project an oral history, ethnography, or journalistic piece?

YES

NO

This is not human subjects research. IRB review/approval is NOT required.

NO

This project is research with human subjects and IRB approval OR determination of exemption IS REQUIRED before the study may begin.

Questions? Contact irb@coloradomesa.edu

Is there intent to generalize outcomes for other organizations, programs, or services?

YES

NO

Is there intent to generalize outcomes for other organizations, programs, or services?

YES

NO

Refer to the “Request for Waiver IRB Application for Class Projects” form.