

I. Exempt Review of Research

The following exemptions do **NOT** apply when (a) **deception** of subjects may be an element of the research; (b) subjects are **under the age of eighteen**; (c) the activity may **expose the subject to discomfort or harassment** beyond levels encountered in daily life; or (d) **fetuses, pregnant women, human in vitro fertilization, children, or individuals involuntarily confined or detained in penal institutions** are subjects of the activity.

EXCEPT FOR THE ABOVE EXCLUSIONS, the federally-approved Categories of Exemption are:

1. Research conducted in established or commonly accepted educational settings involving normal educational practices, such as: (a) research on regular and special education instructional strategies; (b) research on the effectiveness of or the comparison among instructional techniques curricula, or classroom management methods.
2. Research involving the use of educational tests (cognitive, diagnostic, aptitude, achievement), survey procedures, interview procedures or observation of public behavior, unless: (a) information obtained is recorded in such a manner that human subjects can be identified, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects; **and** (b) any disclosure of the human subjects' responses outside the research reasonably place the subjects at risk of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to the subjects' financial standing, employability, or reputation.
3. Research involving the use of educational tests (cognitive, diagnostic, aptitude, or achievement), survey procedures, interview procedures, or observation of public behavior that is not exempt under Category 2 if: (a) the human subjects are elected or appointed public officials, or candidates for public office, **or** (b) federal statute(s) require(s) without exception that the confidentiality of the personally identifiable information will be maintained throughout the research and thereafter.
4. Research involving the collection or study of existing data, documents, records, pathological specimens, or diagnostic specimens, if these sources are publicly available or if the information is recorded by the investigator in such a manner that subjects cannot be identified directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects.
5. Research and demonstration projects which are conducted by or subject to the approval of department or agency heads, and which are designed to study, evaluate, or otherwise examine: (a) public benefit or service programs; (b) procedures for obtaining benefits or services under those programs; (c) possible changes in or alternatives to those programs or procedures; or (d) possible changes in methods or levels of payment for benefits or services under those programs.
6. Taste and food quality evaluation and consumer acceptance studies: (a) if wholesome foods without additives are consumed, or (b) if a food is consumed that contains a food ingredient or at or below the level and for a use found to be safe, or agricultural chemical or environmental contaminant at or below the level found to be safe by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or the Food Safety and Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Exempting an activity from review does not absolve the investigator(s) of the activity from ensuring that the welfare of subjects in the activity is protected and that methods used and information provided to gain subject consent are appropriate to the activity.

Questions about whether a research activity may be exempt from human subjects review can be directed to the Chair of the Institutional Review Board at 336-734-7159.

II. Expedited Review of Research

Human subject research activities involving no more than minimal risk to the subjects may be eligible for expedited review by Forsyth Tech's Institutional Review Board Chair.

Research activities eligible for expedited review:

- (1) Clinical studies of drugs and medical devices only when condition (a) or (b) is met.
- (2) Collection of blood samples by finger stick, heel stick, ear stick, or venipuncture.
- (3) Prospective collection of biological specimens for research purposes by noninvasive means.
- (4) Collection of data through noninvasive procedures (not involving general anesthesia or sedation) routinely employed in clinical practice, excluding procedures involving x-rays or microwaves.
- (5) Research involving materials (data, documents, records, or specimens) that have been collected, or will be collected solely for non-research purposes (such as medical treatment or diagnosis). (Note: Some research in this category may be exempt from the HHS regulations for the protection of human subjects according to [45 CFR 46.101\(b\)\(4\)](#)).
- (6) Collection of data from voice, video, digital, or image recordings made for research purposes.
- (7) Research on individual or group characteristics or behavior (including, but not limited to, research on perception, cognition, motivation, identity, language, communication, cultural beliefs or practices, and social behavior) or research employing survey, interview, oral history, focus group, program evaluation, human factors evaluation, or quality assurance methodologies. (Note: Some research in this category may be exempt from the HHS regulations for the protection of human subjects according to 45 CFR 46.101(b)(2) and (b)(3)).

Expedited review may also be used to review minor changes in previously approved research. Questions about whether a research activity may be appropriate for expedited review can be directed to the Chair of the Institutional Review Board at 336-734-7159.

III. All research that does not meet the criteria for exempt or expedited research must be reviewed by the full Institutional Review Board.