

## Did you know...

Course-based research activities intended primarily for pedagogical purposes fall within the jurisdiction of the Brandon University Research Ethics Committee (BUREC). Such research activities are assigned to students for the purpose of teaching them how to conduct research interviews to collect data to be used in a course assignment, or to practice interviewing techniques. Participants in the activities may be exposed to risks (normally minimal risk) as a result of their participation, and may not distinguish these activities from others that meet the definition of research in the *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS2-2018)* (Application of Article 2.1).

In keeping with a proportionate approach to research ethics review, course-based research activities of minimal risk are eligible for delegated review. Typically, the course instructor, as the Principal Investigator, submits an application for ethics review describing the course-based research activities, how the data will be managed, and whether the data will be used for any purpose beyond the course assignment. This would eliminate the requirement for each student or student group to submit individual applications for ethics review.

If the activities are later used for the purpose of research, e.g. as part of the researcher's own research program, they shall be submitted for review under the secondary use provisions following the regular BUREC process. Student thesis or other equivalent research projects involving humans typically meet the TCPS2-2018 definition of research, and are not considered course-based activities even if they are associated with a course number. They shall be reviewed by the BUREC through proportionate review (delegated vs. full Committee review).

### Skills Development Exemption:

The BUREC allows for skills development exercises as part of the curriculum to be exempt from ethics review, if it is an exercise whereby students/classmates pretend to be study participants, but are not actual participants.

These projects may be carried out by individual students, small groups, or as a single class project, but are limited to participation by those enrolled in that class. These skill development activities may include the following and do not require BUREC review:

- learning to develop and conduct interviews,
- learning to develop and distribute surveys or questionnaires,
- learning to administer standard instruments or equipment, or
- learning to analyze data and write a section for a mock presentation or paper.

All graduate and undergraduate thesis projects involving human participants are considered research and require BUREC review and approval.

If you are unsure whether the planned activity for course credit requires ethics approval, the BUREC strongly recommends completing an Ethics Exemption Inquiry Form. The BUREC Chair

## Course-based Project and Course-based Research Activities

will make a determination on exemption and formal correspondence will be sent to the instructor confirming if the project is exempt or requires approval from the Committee. The Ethics Exemption Inquiry Form can be found at [www.brandonu.ca/burec](http://www.brandonu.ca/burec).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact BUREC at [burec@brandonu.ca](mailto:burec@brandonu.ca).