

SoTL IRB Q & A

University of Wyoming

Q1: If you as a researcher want to use the information that you collected as part of a course for an SoTL study, do you need an IRB?

Answer: Yes, if you want to use your students that you have instructed in the course, for a human subjects research project, you do need to submit an IRB application and have approved by IRB office. Also, if you want to use your own students as participants, that's fine. But you need to bring in someone else to consent your students (i.e., your participants), and you cannot know who has participated as their instructor until after the final grades for the class are out. So, you will have someone who is unrelated to that class come in. That person needs to be added to your protocol, which means they need to have the CITI training and they will collect the consent.

Q2: What if the class is already over and you cannot consent students anyone, can you still use the data?

Answer: No. If the students have not been consented before you gathered the data, you cannot go back and try to send them or you never gathered consent in the first place, you absolutely cannot use that data for the research. Also, the IRB office cannot retroactively approve a protocol.

Q3: Can you have a consent statement in your syllabi to cover any future research?

Answer: Unfortunately, that is something called blanket consent, and that is not something that we have implemented here at UW. It can cause various issues. So, you cannot just have a consent statement that says broadly like "Hey, I'm going to use all of your classwork and your data that I gather for future research." Individual students have to be able to consent to be part of any research project.

Q4: What if students are co-PIs on the project, does he/she need CITI training?

Answer: Yes. Anyone who is on IRB protocol needs to have that CITI training. IRB office unfortunately cannot approve a research project until everyone on it has completed the CITI training.