

Langara Research Ethics Board

Requirements and Exemptions for Ethics Review

(Spring, 2023)

I. When is ethical review required?

The Langara Research Ethics Board (LREB) must review all research, and all research activities that involves human participants including course-based research. According to the Tri-Council Policy Statement ([TCPS2](#)) [Chapter 2](#) Articles 2.1 to 2.6 all research involving living human participants will require ethics review, however some research activities and non-research activities are exempt from review. This document outlines some of these requirements and exemptions. Approval must be obtained from the LREB for all research protocols, consent documents, and recruitment materials before any activity involving human subjects is commenced.

Note: No research activity that involves human participants, including recruitment, can be initiated until approval has been obtained from the LREB.

Any research project conducted by any individual connected to the College, which involves human participants must conform to College policy [Policy-B5007](#) Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans. This policy applies to all research involving human participants and covers all the following situations:

- Research conducted by members of the College acting in their College capacity (this includes faculty, staff, administrators, students, paid or unpaid associates and any other person associated with the College and identifying their association with the College in connection with the research or engaging in the research as part of their non-instructional duty.);
- Where the research is conducted on any College premise or participants are recruited on College premises or using College facilities (e.g. by sending emails to College students.);
- Where the research is administered by the College;
- Where ethics approval is required pursuant to any agreement the College might have with any other institution or agency.
- Course-based research, the primary purpose of which is pedagogical.

II. Ethical Review Required

The following is a list of some typical examples of research and research activities that require an ethical review (examples include, not limited to):

- Surveys, questionnaires (in-person, online, web-based)
- Interviews (in-person, phone, virtual)
- Focus groups and group discussions
- Experiments/tests on platforms like Amazon Mechanical Turk etc.
- Observations in non-public venues (classrooms, meetings etc.)
- Audio-recording participants in research studies or activities
- Video-recording participants in research studies or activities
- Taking notes of participants in research studies or activities
- Pilot/feasibility studies
- Using protected databases or data that requires permission to access (i.e. from institutions, hospitals, companies etc.)
- Using protected or confidential reports and information that requires permission to access
- Using information from online posts, sites, groups that require a log-in, membership etc. (i.e., information that is not publicly accessible and/or there is a reasonable expectation of privacy.)

Reference: TCPS2 Chapter 2 (Article 2.1)

III. Exempt from Ethical Review

The following is a list of some typical examples of research and research activities that are exempt from ethical review (examples include, not limited to):

- Quality assurance (QA) and quality improvement (QI) studies, program evaluation activities, performance reviews, testing when used exclusively for assessment, management, or improvement purposes (i.e. non-research activities)
- Meta-analysis of published research
- Curriculum development
- Literature review
- Policy analysis, reports
- Using publicly available information for a training manual, documenting a community issue, researching a public figure
- Observations in public settings without researcher manipulation of the context or environment
- Using information from online posts, sites, groups that DO NOT require a log-in, membership etc. (i.e., information that is publicly accessible and/or there is no reasonable expectation of privacy.)
- Research conducted by Langara faculty and staff **outside professional activities** and only if:
 - No aspect or component of the research involves affiliation with Langara College
 - No College resources are used to conduct the research
 - No association with the College is indicated in the dissemination of results.

Reference: TCPS2 Chapter 2 (Articles 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5)