



**RHODE ISLAND
COLLEGE**

Annual Report

Institutional Review Board (IRB)

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Respectfully submitted by Chair of the IRB, Emily Cook

Report Summary

- The IRB received 83 applications, including new protocols, renewals, and amendments to approved protocols. The number of protocols received was much less than last year, which may be partially attributed to covid-19 affecting research that could be accomplished.
- The IRB met monthly during the academic year. Due to Covid-19 some of these meetings were held via phone call. Expedited reviews were conducted online between meetings.
- There was one study complaint and/or reports of unanticipated problems/adverse events. The full board committee reviewed this protocol and made suggestions regarding the protocol. This complaint was reported to the Provost.
- One instance of noncompliance occurred.
- 374 faculty, staff, or students completed the CITI training over the past year.
- Three Institutional Authorization Agreements (IAA) were signed that allowed other IRBs to be the IRB of record.
- Three trainings were held in fall 2019 on the basics of submission to the IRB.

Committee members

<i>Member</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Term</i>
Dr. Emily Cook, Chair	Psychology	2018-2021
Dr. Stephanie Downey Toledo (external member as needed Central Falls)	Central Falls School District	2018-2019
Dr. Jesse Capece	Social Work and Prisoner Advocate	2018-2021
Dr. Andrea Dottolo	Psychology	2017-2020
Dr. Paul LaCava	Special Education	2019-2022
Dr. Kevin O'Connor	Unaffiliated member	2018-2019
Dr. Paul Jacques	Management & Marketing	2017-2020
Dr. Sylvia Ross	Nursing	2018-2021
Dr. Jason Saywer	Health and Physical Education	2019-2022
Dr. Marissa Weiss	Student Affairs	2018-2021

Meeting Dates

Sept 20, Oct 18, Nov 15, Dec 20, Feb 21, Mar 20, Apr 17, May 15

Summer 2019: The committee met on June 26th over the telephone.

Expedited proposals were reviewed online during all months.

Summary of Applications

	Total	New	Renewal	Amendment
2019-2020	83	55	10	18
2018-2019	115	70	12	33
2017-2018	94	67	15	12
2016-2017	95	60	17	18
2015-2016	90	57	13	20

Additional research projects were discussed with the Chair or submitted to Topaz but were determined not to be subject to the federal policy, and are not included in these counts.

Applications and other inquiries were received from faculty, staff, and students in departments representing all five schools on campus. Applications were received from:

- Anthropology
- Biology
- Communication
- Counseling, Ed. Leadership, & School Psychology
- Educational Studies
- Elementary Education
- English
- Health & Physical Ed
- Management
- Math & Computer Science
- Nursing
- Psychology
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Special Education
- URI/RIC joint Ph.D.

Unanticipated Problems/Adverse Events Reports

One complaint was reported to the IRB of an adverse event. This complaint was reviewed by the IRB at RIC and the IRB at Lifespan. Recommendations were made by RIC to the Lifespan IRB.

Noncompliance Reports

There was one instance of non-compliance involving a research procedure that was carried out differently than what was approved. This non-compliance was immediately reported to the Chair and handled by the Chair.

Mandatory Research Ethics Training

All investigators using human participants are required to complete the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) online training program. To date, 3,329 faculty, students, or staff members have completed the required IRB-related CITI training modules. In the last year, 374 researchers completed the CITI training. Of them, 238 were students completing the student class projects training module. CITI training must be renewed every 5 years.

Central Falls/Rhode Island College Innovation Lab

There were no proposals reviewed on behalf of the Central Falls School District.

Committee By-Laws

The IRB by-laws were reviewed and no changes were made.

Policies/Procedures Updates

The IRB Policies and Procedures Manual were not updated.

Updates

Changes to Topaz were implemented that included a Quality Improvement Application. The website was updated to reflect new questions and responses to the frequently asked questions

document. A new tab was also added to the website to address non-compliance and adverse events. Sample consents/assents were translated into Spanish and Portuguese and posted on the website as examples.

Committee Recommendations

The committee has the following recommendations: (a) adding a student representative to the committee, (b) adding an alternative member to the committee who speaks other languages and could be brought in to review applications with translated documents, and (c) evaluating within the next year whether TOPAZ is the best platform to use given all the technical issues. The Chair would also like to offer trainings throughout the year, as well as Q&A sessions where faculty and students can ask their IRB related questions.