



**RHODE ISLAND
COLLEGE**

Annual Report

Institutional Review Board (IRB)

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Respectfully submitted by Chair of the IRB, Emily Cook

Report Summary

- The IRB received 89 applications, including new protocols, renewals, and amendments to approved protocols. The number of protocols received was similar to last year but was less than the previous years. A decrease in protocol submissions over the last two years may be attributed to covid-19 and the affect it had on the ability to do in-person research.
- The IRB met monthly during the academic year. Due to Covid-19 these meetings were held via zoom. Expedited and exempt reviews were conducted by the chair between meetings. Most of the applications received were reviewed as exempt or expedited. Only 10 applications required full board review.
- There were no study complaints and/or reports of unanticipated problems/adverse events.
- There was one instance of noncompliance. This noncompliance was not purposeful and was an admission by the PI. The report of noncompliance was handled by the Chair and the PI of the project.
- 280 faculty, staff, or students completed the CITI training over the past year.
- Four Institutional Authorization Agreements (IAA) were signed that either allowed RIC or other IRBs to be the IRB of record.

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	2020-2021
Dr. Jesse Capece	Social Work and Prisoner Advocate	2018-2021
Dr. Christine Connolly	School of Business	2020-2023
Dr. Andrea Dottolo	Psychology	2020-2023
Dr. Michael Giacalone	Student Affairs	2020-2023
Dr. Paul LaCava	Special Education	2019-2022
Dr. Kevin O'Connor	Unaffiliated member	2020-2021
Dr. Penni Sadlon	Nursing	2020-2023
Dr. Jason Saywer	Health and Physical Education	2019-2022

Meeting Dates

The following meeting dates were set at the onset of the 2020-2021 academic year: Sept 18, Oct 16, Nov 20, Dec 18, Feb 12, Mar 19, Apr 16, and May 14. The IRB did not meet in September of October, as there were no full board protocols to review.

Expedited and Exempt proposals were reviewed online by the IRB Chair during all months.

Summary of Applications

	Total	New	Renewal	Amendment
2020-2021	89	67	5	17
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
- Health & Physical Ed
- Management
- Math & Computer Science
- Nursing
- Psychology
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Special Education
- URI/RIC joint Ph.D.

Unanticipated Problems/Adverse Events Reports

There were no adverse events reported to the 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, 280 researchers completed the CITI training. Of them, 123 completed 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. The IRB and Provost should discuss whether the IRB still needs a member from the Central Falls School District on the IRB given that no Central Falls research proposals have been reviewed in the last three years.

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

Topaz implemented a Silverlight free version of the platform for users. Theoretically, this change resulted in both PC and Mac users being able to access TOPAZ without problems. All

instructional documents on TOPAZ were updated for the website. Due to the on-going covid-19 pandemic, the website was updated to reflect research considerations during covid-19. A document also was developed for use by in-person researchers of information to add to the consent regarding covid-19 considerations. Additionally, the on-line application was updated to reflect questions about in-person research and managing covid-19 risks. A document was also developed to make the process for signing up for CITI training clearer.

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, (c) increasing ethnic diversity on the committee, (d) evaluating whether TOPAZ is the best platform to use given continued technical issues, (e) considering adding modules for the CITI training such as “remote informed consent” and “community based participatory research,” and (f) implementing a procedure to close research studies once they have been completed by investigators. The committee has tried to implement the first three recommendations over the previous year but has had trouble recruiting interested students, faculty, or staff. The Chair would also like to continue offering trainings throughout the year, as well as Q&A sessions where faculty and students can ask their IRB related questions.