



**RHODE ISLAND
COLLEGE**

Annual Report

Institutional Review Board (IRB)

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Respectfully submitted by Chair of the IRB, Emily Cook

Report Summary

- The IRB received 75 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 few 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. 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 nine applications required full board review.
- There were no study complaints and two reports of unanticipated problems/adverse events.
- There were no instances of noncompliance.
- 286 faculty, staff, or students completed the CITI training over the past year.
- Two 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	2022-2025
Dr. Jesse Capece	Social Work and Prisoner Advocate	2022-2025
Dr. Christine Connolly	School of Business	2020-2023
Gail Davis	Nursing, Student Member	2021-2022
Dr. Andrea Dottolo	Psychology	2020-2023
Joise Garzon	Learning for Life	2021-2022
Dr. Paul LaCava	Special Education	2019-2022
Dr. Kevin O'Connor	Unaffiliated member	2021-2022
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 2021-2022 academic year: Sept 17, Oct 15, Nov 19, Dec 17, Feb 18, Mar 18, Apr 15, and May 13. The IRB did not meet in November, December, or May, 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
2021-2022	75	50	5	20
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
- Health Care Administration
- Management
- Math & Computer Science
- Nursing
- Psychology
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Special Education
- URI/RIC joint Ph.D.

Unanticipated Problems/Adverse Events Reports

There was one unanticipated problem and one adverse event reported to the IRB. These were reported to the IRB immediately and a report was filled out by the Principle Investigator on each of the projects. The IRB met to discuss how to handle these reports and in both cases, research was able to continue with modifications.

Noncompliance Reports

There were no noncompliance reports to the IRB.

Mandatory Research Ethics Training

All investigators using human participants are required to complete the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) online training program. In the last year, 286 researchers completed the CITI training. Of them, 127 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 did not include a member from the Central Fall School District given that no research proposals have been reviewed from there in the last four 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

No specific updates were made to the website or existing documents this year. The IRB chair did inquire about putting modules on-line to walk researchers through the different steps of the application but no progress was made toward this as the group on campus who would need

to close caption these videos did not respond to inquiries. The IRB chair also spent some time closing out protocols that were no longer active in research. Several conversations with TOPAZ were had about how to make this process automated but at this time that is not possible. The IRB Chair also researched other IRB platforms that could be used instead of TOPAZ. The Chair's informal conclusion is that another platform that is more user friendly and similar price should be considered as a replacement for TOPAZ. At this time, a one-year contract has been signed with TOPAZ, as to allow time to seriously consider the undertaking of a new platform by the college.

Committee Recommendations

The committee has the following recommendations: (a) continuing to have a student representative on 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) continuing to increase diversity on the committee, (d) strongly considering replacing TOPAZ with another IRB platform given the rising costs and technical issues, (d) considering adding modules for the CITI training such as "remote informed consent" and "community based participatory research," and (e) providing on-line content for faculty, staff, and students that is more accessible (e.g., videos) to help with the large amount of emails sent to the chair. The committee has tried to implement the first three recommendations over the previous years but have had trouble recruiting interested students, faculty, or staff. This past year, we were able to add a student member and a member of color to the IRB. In the future, we would like to continue this trend. 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.