

Knox College – Policies & Procedures

Policy: **Research on Human Subjects**

Applies to: BD students (M. Div., M.T.S., M.R.E., Special)

Approval & Responsible Individual: Faculty, March 2003.

Reference information: www.sgs.utoronto.ca/current/policies/research/humanguide

Policy

It is the policy of Knox College that any student who proposes to do research on human subjects (interviews, surveys, focus groups, etc.) must secure approval from the Ethics Review Unit of the University of Toronto.

Procedures

Research on human subjects is not appropriate for papers or projects within term work courses. If any student so wishes to do research on human subjects for a thesis or integrative paper they must start the process no later than 6 weeks prior to the end of the previous term in which the thesis/integrative paper will be undertaken.

Additional Information: (from Research Involving Human Subjects ©School of Graduate Studies, U of T)

What research requires ethics review?

1. All research that involves living human subjects requires review and approval by a REB [Research Ethics Board] before the research is started, except as stipulated below.
2. Research about a living individual involved in the public arena, or about an artist, based exclusively on publicly available information, documents, records, works, performances, archival materials or third-party interviews, is not required to undergo ethics review. Such research only requires ethics review if the subject is approached directly for interviews or for access to private papers, and then only to ensure that such approaches are conducted according to professional protocols.

What must be reviewed?

Research involving human subjects includes:

1. Obtaining data about a living individual through intervention or interaction with the individual, or the obtaining of private personal information about the individual;
2. Secondary use of data (i.e., information collected for purposes other than the proposed research) that contains identifying information about a living individual, or data linkage through which living individuals become identifiable;
3. Naturalistic observation, except the observation of individuals in contexts in which it can be expected that the participants are seeking public visibility.