



**RHODE ISLAND
COLLEGE**

Annual Report

Institutional Review Board (IRB)

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Respectfully submitted by Chair of the IRB, Emily Cook

Report Summary

- The IRB received 60 applications, including new protocols, renewals, and amendments to approved protocols. The number of protocols received was less than last year. Similar to last year we had a larger amount of protocols than in previous years that were submitted and received feedback but were not resubmitted as of the date of this report ($N=7$). One of the reasons for fewer applications appears to be that we received fewer applications from the School of Nursing because they did away with their scholarly requirement projects for the MSN program.
- 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 twelve applications required full board review, which was similar to last year.
- There were no study complaints and or reports of unanticipated problems/adverse events.
- There were no instances of noncompliance.
- 305 faculty, staff, or students completed the CITI training over the past year.
- There was one Institutional Authorization Agreement (IAA) that was signed that allowed RIC to be the IRB of record. We also acted as the IRB of record for an outside research group located in South County.

Committee members

<i>Member</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Term</i>
Dr. Emily Cook, Chair	Psychology	2021-2024
Karen Bellnier	Student Member, Educational Studies	Spring 2024
Dr. Jesse Capece	Social Work and Prisoner Advocate	2024-2027
Dr. Christine Connolly	School of Business	2023-2026
Dr. Ted Jenkins	Communication	2022-2025
Dr. Paul LaCava	Special Education	2022-2025
Dr. Maria Muccio-Raposa*	Director, Center for Scholar Development	2022-2025
Dr. Penni Sadlon	Nursing	2023-2026
Dr. Lauren Thorngate	Unaffiliated member	2023-2024

* Please note that Dr. Muccio-Raposa was on leave during the Spring of 2024 and was replaced during this time by Margarida DaGraca, Program Director McNair

Meeting Dates

The following meeting dates were set at the onset of the 2022-2023 academic year: Sept 15, Oct 20, Dec 15, Jan 19, Feb 16, Apr 19, and May 17. We did not meet in November and March because 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
2023-2024	60	44	5	11
2022-2023	71	56	4	11
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
- Communication
- Counseling, Ed. Leadership, & School Psychology
- Educational Studies
- Health & Physical Ed
- Health Care Administration
- Management
- Music, Theatre, and Dance
- Nursing
- Psychology
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Special Education

Unanticipated Problems/Adverse Events Reports

There were no unanticipated problems or adverse events reported to the IRB.

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, 305 researchers completed the CITI training. of them, 129 completed the student class projects training module. CITI training must be renewed every 5 years.

Committee By-Laws

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

Policies/Procedures Updates

The IRB Policies and Procedures Manual was reviewed in Summer 2023 and some changes were made to the document.

Updates

The following changes and updates were made throughout the year. We added a student member to the committee per recommendations from previous years. Updates to the website were made that include (a) changes to frequently added questions to include information on engaged research and (b) a section on best practices for collecting consent online.

Committee Recommendations

The committee has the following recommendations some of which were also recommended in previous years: (a) adding an alternative member to the committee who speaks other languages and could be brought in to review applications with translated documents, (b) continuing to increase diversity on the committee, (c) encouraging researchers who are conducting research in communities where other languages are predominately spoken to

consider translating documents to better represent those communities (d) consider joining Smart IRB to streamline review for multisite studies, and (e) providing on-line content for faculty, staff, and students that is more accessible (e.g., videos). The committee has tried to implement the first two recommendations, with some success, over the previous years but has had trouble recruiting interested students, faculty, or staff. The Chair would also like to continue offering training throughout the year, as well as Q&A sessions where faculty and students can ask their IRB related questions.