



**Title:** Guidelines for the Protection of Human Subjects in Research Studies  
**Effective Date:** March 14, 2024  
**Issuing Authority:** Provost  
**Policy Contact:** Senior Vice Provost for Research  
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### **Purpose**

Mercer University has provided a formal assurance to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) that it will follow procedures which will assure the protection of all human subjects involved in research projects.

### **Scope**

This assurance applies to research conducted by anyone on the premises of Mercer University and research conducted elsewhere by faculty, students, staff, or other representatives of the University, whether or not the research is sponsored by Department of Health and Human Services.

### **Exclusions**

None

### **Policy Statement**

In order to comply with this assurance, Mercer University has established an institutional committee competent to review research projects that involve human subjects. Under the provisions of the Department of Health and Human Services Regulations for the Protection of Human Research Subjects (45 CFR 46), this committee has been designated as the Institutional Review Board (IRB). The primary function of the IRB is to assist the investigator in the protection of the rights and welfare of human subjects. All proposals that involve the use of human subjects are to be conducted under these guidelines.

The full text of the Guidelines for the Protection of Human Subjects is located in the Office of the Dean of each impacted school or college and in the Office of Research Compliance.

### **Website**

Office of Research Compliance: <https://orc.mercer.edu/>

### **History**

Revised July 2021

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