

HLC Fact of the Day:
“HLC Assurance Argument: Subcomponent 2E1”
(with specific focus on “IRB”)
(September 22, 2017)

In the HLC Criteria for Accreditation, Subcomponent 2E1 says:

The institution provides effective oversight and support services to ensure the integrity of research and scholarly practice conducted by its faculty, staff, and students.

In our Assurance Argument being prepared for HLC, and in support of the 2E1 standard, this is what we say regarding “IRB” (Institutional Review Board):

IRB

Lindenwood's Institutional Review Board (IRB) oversees all human-subject research in accordance with 45 CFR 46 and additional state and federal regulations as applicable. IRB Policies and Procedures are available to all faculty, staff, and students as well as publicly available on the university website. In addition, the IRB office develops and publicizes policy and guidance in consultation with the Research Policy Advisory Group. The IRB website includes a wide range of resources on the design, implementation, and conduct of human-subject research. The IRB office offers additional resources specific to compliance with FERPA, PPRA, FDA, and Department of Education guidelines. The IRB office also provides education and resources for promoting community-engaged research, health literacy, and best practices for informed consent. The process for reporting unanticipated problems presenting risk to participants or others, non-compliance with Lindenwood policy, or participant complaints is available to researchers online and presented during the IRB approval process.

All investigators at Lindenwood are required to complete the NIH “Protecting Human Research Participants” training prior to the conduct of any research involving human subjects. The IRB office holds numerous classroom training sessions each semester, weekly office hours, and two presentations or faculty panel sessions on research and compliance each semester. IRB members must complete an additional intensive new-member training process, and are presented additional news and education biweekly.

The Psychology Department in the School of Sciences has an additional pre-review process to further protect human subjects. Psychology faculty and students must first submit their proposal to the Psychology Program Scientific Review Committee (PPSRC), which reviews all proposals based on 29 indicators (see PPSRC webpage). Once approved by the PPSRC, proposals are sent to the IRB. The PPSRC review process has significantly improved the IRB approval rate for student proposals. The School of Education has a similar pre-review process for graduate students conducting thesis research.

The IRB and designated reviewers follow OHRP regulations and guidelines when reviewing proposals. Lindenwood's IRB operates under a registered Federal-Wide Assurance (FWA). The IRB works to continually improve its guidelines, feedback, and rate of response: a recent report indicates a commensurate steady increase in the number of proposals reviewed. Continuous quality improvement efforts are conducted in response to survey feedback, ongoing institutional analysis, and collaboration with the Research Policy Advisory Group.

To learn more about accreditation and Lindenwood’s comprehensive evaluation and site visit scheduled for November 6-7, 2017, and to see the countdown clock to the visit, go to the HLC page on the Lindenwood website here: <http://www.lindenwood.edu/about/higher-learning-commission/>.

Past HLC Facts are archived [here](#).

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