



Boston College
Office for Research Protections

Human Participant Research Training Policy

Appropriate training is required for all research personnel who participate in the conduct of human participant research. In the past, a variety of training programs were accepted to satisfy this requirement. In order to achieve consistency in training quality and continuity, this policy applies to human participant research performed by research personnel on projects approved by the Boston College IRB. For the purpose of this policy, the term "research personnel" includes anyone (e.g., faculty, post-docs, students, research staff) who is engaged in the conduct of research. It also includes faculty advisors on student research protocols.

1. . Effective July 1, 2008, unless an exception in Point 2 below applies the CITI training program (<http://www.citiprogram.org/default.asp?language=english>) or the National Institutes of Health training program, (<http://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php>) will be the only training program that is considered to satisfy the training requirement for human participant research conducted by research personnel on projects approved by the Boston College IRB. The only modules in the CITI training program that meet the requirement are the Biomedical and Social/Behavioral module. The Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) module *does not* satisfy this requirement. **Please note that the NIH will no longer offer its online training program as of September 27, 2018. We will still accept certificates from the program that are less than 3 years old, but all future training must be through the CITI Program.**
2. Other training certificates will be accepted under the following conditions:
 - a. If a research personnel have recently joined the Boston College community and has a training certificate awarded by an institution having an active Federal-Wide Assurance, or a training certificate issued by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), dated no more than two years prior to the submission of an IRB application; or
 - b. If Boston College research personnel have an NCI training certificate with a recorded date falling between September 1, 2006 through June 30, 2008; or
 - c. If a researcher located at another institution participates on a project approved by the Boston College IRB, and has a training certificate from his/her institution or NIH, and the certificate is regarded as active by his/her institution.

3. The CITI, NIH, or any other accepted training certificates will be regarded as being active for three years from the date of recorded on the certificate.
4. At the expiration of the CITI or NIH training certificate (i.e., three years from the recorded date on the certificate), research personnel are required to take the CITI Refresher Course in order for an IRB application to be approved.
5. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Boston College IRB, at its sole discretion, may require that researchers complete specific training. This may include, but is not limited to, high-risk research projects.
6. Exception to this policy: Those researchers who are working solely with de-identified data sets *and* are not conducting research using federal funding are exempt from this training policy.