

Nipissing University Policy of Research Involving Human Participants

Office of Accountability:	Vice President, Academic and Research
Office of Administrative Responsibility:	Office of Research Services
Approver:	Board of Governors
Scope:	Compliance with University policy extends to all members of the University community that use humans for research, teaching or testing
Approval Date:	January, 2011
Renewal Date:	January 2013
Policy Number:	NU-RES-2011.06

Introduction

Nipissing University is committed to the ethical use and responsible care of humans in research, teaching and testing. Nipissing University endorses the principles set out in the Tri-Council Policy Statement "Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans". The university's policy is intended to ensure that the highest ethical standards in the conduct of research involving human participants are maintained in compliance with the Tri-Council Policy Statement.

Applicability

This policy applies to all university personnel and students who use human participants in their research, teaching or testing. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that university personnel and students using humans for research, teaching, or testing know and understand the expectations of Nipissing University.

Essential Ethical Principles of Research Involving Human Participants

Research involving human participants is premised on a fundamental moral commitment to advancing human welfare, knowledge, and understanding, and to examining cultural dynamics. Researchers, universities, governments, and private institutions undertake or fund research involving human participants for many reasons, for example: to alleviate human suffering, to validate social or scientific theories, to dispel ignorance, to analyze policy, and to understand human behaviour and the evolving human condition. Research involving human participants imparts at least three general categories of benefits:

- The basic desire for new knowledge and understanding;
- The quest to advance knowledge that may benefit research participants, such as the discovery of information affecting their welfare, the identification of historical, written, oral or cultural traditions, the satisfaction of making a contribution to society or improved treatments for illnesses, through research; or
- The need for information that will benefit particular groups and/or society as a whole, such as insights into political behaviours that may produce better policy, information about the incidence of disease that may improve public health, sociological data about lifestyles that may lead to social reform, or findings that illuminate past and present realities.

Research Ethics Board

1. Nipissing University will have a Research Ethics Board (REB) responsible for ensuring the ethical and responsible use of human participants in research, teaching and testing.
2. REB and the University have the authority, on behalf of the Vice President, Academic and Research of Nipissing University to enforce the Tri-Council Policy Statement "Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans" to:
 - a. Stop any objectionable procedure if it considers that unnecessary pain or distress is being experienced by the human participant;
 - b. Terminate immediately any use of human participants that deviates from the protocol;
3. REB will review and manage the use of human participant applications. All individuals using human participants for research, teaching or testing are responsible to the REB.

Ethics Review of the Involvement of Human Participants

1. All projects involving the use of human participants for the purpose of research, teaching and/or testing must receive written approval from REB in accordance with the regulations of the Tri-Council Policy Statement "Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans";
2. Have fair methods, standards, and procedures for reviewing research protocols, and that the process be effectively independent;
3. No segment of the population should be burdened unfairly with the harms of research. Particular obligations toward individuals who are vulnerable and unable to protect their own interests in order to ensure that they are not exploited for the advancement of knowledge.
4. Neither neglect nor discriminate against individuals and groups who may benefit from advances in research.

Accountability and Transparency

This policy requires that all research, teaching or testing projects involving human participants undertaken by members of the university community - consisting of all faculty, staff and students, including students carrying out research as part of class assignments - fall within the jurisdiction of the Nipissing University Research Ethics Board, irrespective of the source of financial support (if any) and irrespective of the location of the project.

Non-Compliance

1. Conducting research, teaching or testing involving human participants that has not been reviewed and approved by REB will constitute non-compliance.
2. Use of human participants that contravenes this policy will constitute non-compliance.
3. Non-compliance may be grounds for research misconduct.

PUBLISHED PROCEDURES OF THIS POLICY

Research Ethics Board Terms of Reference
Appeal Procedure
Research Ethics Board Protocol Review Procedure