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## GUIDANCE DOCUMENT: Experiential Education Research, Human Participants, and Ethics Review at a Glance\*

**Target Audience:** Course Directors assigning Experiential Education (EE) projects that involve research as part of a course assignment that all students in the class must complete

**Central Question:** When do I need to submit a [Generic Protocol](#) to the Delegated Ethics Review Committee?

**Answer:** Ethics Review is required when the EE activity involves:

- Building new knowledge through disciplined inquiry that is conducted with the expectation that the method, results, and conclusions will be able to withstand the scrutiny of the relevant research community; **and**
- Human participants focused research methodologies (i.e. observation, focus groups, in depth interviews, surveys).

**What might this activity look like in practice?**

- An illustration of this would be: a student works with a community organization(s) to evaluate the effectiveness of one or more of their programs, policies, etc. and the project involves conducting a survey, holding focus groups, and producing a report, essay, presentation or other output that synthesizes research findings.

**Ok, I have determined that the EE activity requires Delegated Ethics Review Committee Approval and I have submitted my Generic Protocol, now what?**

**Requirements for Students:** All students participating in the EE research activity must complete the [TCPS 2 Tutorial](#) before embarking upon their research project (approximately 3 hours to complete).

**Good News!** Students only need to complete the TCPS Tutorial once. Once completed, students receive a certificate, which they can provide to Course Directors in future courses that require Ethics Approval for research activities.

**One more Question:** Are there examples of EE research that involves humans, but which doesn't require Ethics Approval?

**Answer:** Yes. If the involvement of humans in the research is tangential to the work (i.e. involves individual consultation for the purpose of clarifying policies, procedures, etc.), or if the activity is strictly for the purposes of training (i.e. purely professional skills development in interview methods), it does not typically require ethics approval. For more detailed guidelines, please consult [the HPRC Guidelines Ethics Review and Experiential Education \(EE\)](#), or contact [Alison Collins-Mrakas](#), Senior Manager & Policy Advisor, Research Ethics ([acollins@yorkul.ca](mailto:acollins@yorkul.ca)), who will be happy to provide you with advice.

\* These guidelines were developed using the [Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans](#) definition of when research is subject to ethics review.