Activities Requiring Virginia Tech IRB Approval

Start here

Are you a Virginia Tech (VT) faculty or staff member, or VT student?  

No

Yes

Is this a collaborative project with an outside institution or individual?  

Yes

No

Is the activity designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge (e.g., publication, presentations)? Note: answer “yes” for thesis, dissertation, and pilot studies. Answer “no” for class projects and quality assessment (QA) projects unless there is a plan to disseminate results outside of the classroom or entity for which the QA is being performed.

Yes

No

Activity is research. Does the research involve obtaining information about living individuals?

Yes

No

Does the research involve intervention or interaction with the individuals? This includes online and mail surveys.

Yes

No

You need Virginia Tech IRB approval before conducting any research activities involving human subjects, including recruitment.

Go to the following link to apply:  
http://www.irb.vt.edu/pages/researchers.htm

Is a Virginia Tech (VT) faculty or staff member, or VT student considered a collaborating investigator?  
Definition of “investigator”:  
http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/policy/faq/investigator-responsibilities/who-are-investigators.html

Carilion & VCOM research, visit the following link:  
http://www.irb.vt.edu/pages/moa.htm

Will Virginia Tech be engaged in the activities?  
Examples of engagement include:  
1. VT receives direct HHS award to conduct human subjects research  
2. VT employees or agents intervene or interact with living individuals for research purposes  
3. VT employees or agents obtain, release, or permit investigators to obtain individually identifiable private information for research purposes.

Learn more about what constitutes engagement in research by visiting the following link:  
http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/policy/engage08.html

You do NOT need Virginia Tech IRB approval.

Is the source of the data private?  
[Data originates from a publicly available source – for example, newspaper, magazine, or published journal articles]

Yes

No

Note: This decision chart was constructed with the help of the Office of Human Research Protections’ “Human Subject Decision Chart, September 24.”  
http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/policy/checklists/decisioncharts.html#c1

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