

Background and Purpose:

Oversight for classroom projects involving human subjects but designed exclusively for pedagogical purposes falls under the full purview of the course instructor. The instructor has primary responsibility for assuring that the rights and welfare of human subjects are not violated.

The Tri-Council Policy Statement (TCPS2, 2014) requires instructors to submit a research application if they are conducting research outside the pedagogical purpose. Instructors must receive ethics approval from NAIT REB prior to the onset of student involvement in research.

Is it research or pedagogical development?

NAIT REB does not have purview over in-class testing of class related topics, nor does it have purview over pedagogical processes. Please consult NAIT and NAIT Institutional Research for best practices and professionalism (see section 102a for links).

If the instructor wants to use the class as their participants in the instructor's research project (for example, in a non-class related research project), the REB requests that the instructor consider the conflict of interest. Since the researcher is in a position of power over the participants, NAIT REB discourages non-class related research using the researcher's students as participants, except when there is sufficient justification given for testing one's own students, in which case the research should consider the guidelines below;

1. Someone other than the instructor of the class should do the testing (i.e. someone who is not in a position of power over the students)
2. The instructor should not be present in the classroom at any time during the conduct of the study
3. The instructor should not do the solicitation of student participation
4. The instructor should be blind with respect to who participants and who does not participate. If necessary, participants could be identified after all marks have been allocated.
5. Normal consent and debriefing should be followed.
6. The other researcher should inform students in the class that
 - a. the instructor/researcher will be blind with respect to student participation
 - b. their participation is completely voluntary and will have no bearing on student marks in the course, and
 - c. they are free to leave without penalty if they do not wish to participate.