Undergraduate Research and Human Subjects

Undergraduate research projects that involve human subjects will need to get approval from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at URI. The IRB ensures that research is conducted ethically and that the rights of human subjects are respected.

Human subject research does not just refer to medical experiments; behavioral and social science research is also considered human subject research. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Surveys of URI undergraduates or other groups of individuals, including the use of online survey programs such as SurveyMonkey.
- Oral histories.
- Evaluation of educational programs.

Applications for review and approval of research involving human subjects require a faculty member who acts as the Principal Investigator of record and who assumes responsibility for the quality of the application for approval as well as the responsible and ethical conduct of the student's research activities.

Safeguarding the rights and welfare of subjects involved in any research, development, or related activity is the responsibility of the University. In order to provide for the adequate discharge of this responsibility, it is the policy of the University that no research activity involving human subjects be undertaken until those activities have been reviewed and approved by the University IRB.

For more information please see:

http://www.uri.edu/research/tro/about/IRB/index.html

To learn more about the ethics of human subject research please see:

https://www.citiprogram.org/Default.asp?