

Definition of Research (According to HHS: Office for Human Research Protections)

Research is a "...**systematic** investigation **designed** to develop or contribute to **generalizable** knowledge"
[45 CFR 46.102(d)]

The Baldwin Wallace University Institutional Review Board (BWIRB) interprets this definition and its terms in the following ways:

1. Whereas all research might be considered investigative, not all investigations conducted on the Baldwin Wallace University campus should be considered *research*.
2. Investigations will be considered **research** when they possess **ALL** of the following characteristics:
 - a. **Systematic** – this term refers to an investigation’s adherence to generally accepted and/or discipline-specific research methodologies (e.g. scientific, social scientific, humanistic).
 - b. **Designed** – this term refers to the purpose and/or aim of the investigation. Investigations will be considered *research* if/when the end(s) intended is/are academic, scientific, and/or humanistic contribution and/or generalization.
 - i. As opposed to investigations **designed** to contribute to the internal (Baldwin Wallace University) analysis and/or gathering of information/polling.
 - c. **Generalizable** – this term refers to the accessibility and/or use of the investigation’s product (i.e. results). Investigations will be considered *research* if/when principal investigators indicate an intent to join their results with on-going academic and/or discipline-specific lines of research. Generalization can take the form of (but is not limited to) publication and/or presentation of results for audiences beyond Baldwin Wallace University.
 - i. BWIRB requires that students enrolled in “research methods” courses submit their investigation proposals for review/approval regardless of the intended breadth of generalization.
3. The BWIRB is limited to conducting reviews of *Human Subjects Research*. This includes the following:
 - a. The investigation qualifies as *research* (see above).
 - b. The investigation involves intervention or interaction with living (human) individuals wherein, the participants are asked about themselves.

The following types of investigations typically DO NOT require BWIRB review/approval:

- a. Institutional investigations: (i.e. polls intended for “internal” use).
 - i. university services opinion polls
 - ii. department or college outcome surveys
 - iii. employee satisfaction surveys
 - iv. campus climate surveys

- v. marketing investigations
- b. Class projects:
 - a. Designed specifically for educational/teaching purposes
 - b. Not intended for use outside of the classroom.
 - i. This excludes student projects in “research methods” courses.
- c. Contracted services:
 - a. Journalistic or Political polls*
 - b. University partner/customer projects* (e.g. Center for Innovation and Growth Projects, Digital Marketing Client Projects, etc.).

*Note that contracted services could be considered *Research* in instances where there is a clear intent to contribute to generalizable knowledge, as described in the definition of research.