3.5 CLASS PROJECTS

Student work involving human subjects at GSU generally falls into one of two categories:

a. **Research practica** - research activities, such as class projects, with the goal of providing research experience to the students; by definition, research practica are not intended to add to generalizable knowledge and thus do not meet the federal regulatory definition of research. That is, the product from the practicum will not be submitted for presentation or publication at the time of the activity or in the future.

Since they do not contribute to generalizable knowledge, research practica do not usually require IRB submission. However, the faculty of record bears the responsibility to ensure that students engaged in these practica behave according to the highest standards of professional ethics and in accordance with the policies and procedures of the setting in which the activity takes place. These procedures may include, but are not limited to, the use of information letters, consents, assents, and releases.

Faculty of record for class projects must be especially cognizant of their responsibility and potential liability when these student projects place subjects at greater than minimal risk. Such projects may include the following:

1. studies asking about illegal activities
2. studies in which a breach of confidentiality would place the subject at risk
3. studies that address emotionally charged subject matter.
4. studies that involve any aspect of deception
5. studies involving vulnerable subjects

Faculty of record may consult with the IRB staff for information and guidance when evaluating risks. Faculty and students involved in these activities are encouraged to complete human subjects training through CITI.

b. **Research projects** - faculty-directed or independent research activities (for example, honors or graduate theses) with the goal of adding to generalizable knowledge. These projects must be submitted to the IRB for review and subsequent approval.