Will you, a member of your research team or a collaborator observe, interact with, or intervene with individuals to gather information that will be used for research? Examples:

- Surveys, questionnaires, focus groups, interviews
- Games, experiments in physical or in electronic environments
- Physical or biomedical procedures – imaging, scanning, blood collection, anthropomorphic procedures
- Diet, nutrition studies, taste tests
- Studies examining effectiveness of educational tools or curricula
- Use of instruments or devices, including phones, to collect data or monitor or influence behavior
- Passive observation of public behavior (in physical or online environments, including social media)
- Studies examining individuals’ responses to manipulation of their physical or online environment
- Another activity that involves observation of, or interaction with, individuals to gather information for research

NO, research will use only existing data

The focus of the project is only on products, methods, policies, procedures, organizations: e.g., interviewing transportation staff and officials about parking or transportation policies and procedures.

Contact WCU IRB Co-Chairs with questions.

Is this a class project?

Is the sole intent of the project to meet course requirements, with no intention to use the results in any other way? AND meets WCU course-based research policy requirements?

Is the project an oral history, ethnographic, or journalistic piece?

Does the project involve stories that will or may draw broad conclusions about the population, cultures, norms and practices; even if no research hypothesis is being tested or validated?

The project may lead to use of the results outside of the course (e.g., for a publication, presentation, thesis, or dissertation).

Is this a quality assurance/quality improvement/organizational effectiveness study (i.e. to assess, improve, or develop programs or services for an organization)?

Will outcomes be generalized for other organizations, programs or services?

Outcomes will remain specific to the organization, programs or services, although other organizations may use the results for their own programs.

Results of this type of pilot will not contribute to generalizable knowledge. Investigators should still take care with participants (e.g., informed consent, data security). NOTE: Consult with the IRB Office if your pilot will involve vulnerable populations or more than minimal risk research.

Is this a pilot study?

Is the purpose of the pilot to serve as a small scale (<10) feasibility study, with no intent to use the findings as research data?

Outcomes of this type of pilot will not contribute to generalizable knowledge. Investigators should still take care with participants (e.g., informed consent, data security). NOTE: Consult with the IRB Office if your pilot will involve vulnerable populations or more than minimal risk research.

An application to the IRB office and written notice of approval required before the study can begin.

Questions: IRB@wcupa.edu or Email WCU IRB Co-Chairs.