

## Annual Report for the Institutional Review Board – FY21

This report describes the activities of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) beginning June 1, 2010 and ending May 31, 2021 (FY21).

As shown in Table 1, 61 new protocols were submitted to the IRB in FY21 (versus 95 in FY20 and 80 in FY19). Of these 61 protocols, 47 protocols were classified as expedited (77.05%) and 13 were classified as exempt (21.31%). One protocol (1.64%) was submitted but later withdrawn.

**Table 1. IRB Protocol Classification in FY21**

Classification	Summer 2020	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Total
Full Board	0	0	0	0
Expedited	1	7	5	13
Exempt	8	14	25	47
Withdrawn	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>61</b>

As shown in Table 2, IRB protocols were submitted by 17 departments, programs, and/or offices in FY21. Departments that submitted protocols most frequently included Psychology, Political Science, and Environmental Studies and Sciences.

**Table 2. IRB Protocols Submitted by Department / Program / Office in FY21**

Department / Program / Office	Summer 2020	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Total
American Studies	0	0	2	2
Anthropology	0	0	1	1
Chemistry	0	0	1	1
Computer Science	0	0	1	1
Economics	1	1	1	3
Education Studies	1	0	0	1
Environmental Studies and Sciences	0	2	4	6
FYE Office	0	0	1	1
Gender Studies	0	3	0	3
Health and Human Phys. Sciences ( <i>1 withdrawn</i> )	0	0	5	5
Institutional Research	0	0	1	1
Music	0	1	0	1
Office of the Dean of Students	0	0	1	1
Political Science	1	6	2	9
Psychology	6	5	10	21
Social Work	0	1	1	2
Sociology	0	2	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>61</b>

As shown in Table 3, of the 61 protocols reviewed in FY21, 39 were submitted by student investigators with a faculty advisor, compared with 47 protocols submitted by student investigators in FY20.

**Table 3. IRB Protocols Submitted by Student Investigator with Faculty Advisors in FY21**

Department / Program / Office	Summer 2020	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Total
Anthropology	0	0	1	1
Economics	1	1	1	3
Environmental Studies & Sciences	0	1	2	3
Gender Studies	0	3	0	3
Health and Human Phys. Sciences ( <i>1 withdrawn</i> )	0	0	5	5
Music	0	1	0	1
Political Science	1	3	1	5
Psychology	4	5	5	14
Social Work	0	1	1	2
Sociology	0	2	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>39</b>

As shown in Table 4, the IRB reviewed and approved 31 amendment requests to previously approved protocols in FY21, compared to 40 amendment requests in FY20.

**Table 4. Number of Amendment Requests Approved in FY21**

	Summer 2020	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Total
IRB Amendment Requests	7	12	12	31

Continuing Review Forms were sent to investigators for 33 protocols classified as expedited and full-board that were approved prior to January 21, 2019 (those approved after January 21, 2019 do not require continuing review). 25 protocols received approval in FY21 to remain active, while 8 protocols received approval to be closed.

No adverse events were reported to the IRB in FY21.

Membership for the IRB is listed in Table 5.

**Table 5. IRB Members**

<b>June 1, 2020 – May 31, 2021</b>
Lisa Burke, IRB Coordinator (Sponsored Research)
Sarah DiPasquale (Dance)
Denise Evert (Psychology)
Kurt Freeman (Community-at-Large Member)
Sandra Goff (Economics)
Mary Hoehn, Chair (Sponsored Research)
Andrew Lindner (Sociology)

### COVID-19 Response

In March 2020, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office of the Dean of the Faculty and the IRB sent out a joint email to the faculty stating 1) the College has suspended any research involving on-campus human subjects research; 2) any new or pending Institutional Review Board (IRB) applications involving in-person testing on campus will not be reviewed or approved; 3) any currently active IRB protocols involving in-person testing on campus must cease until further notice; and 4) revising any currently active IRB protocols from in-person to remote/online research requires an amendment request and approval. This remained in effect until late August 2020.

On August 21, 2020, the Office of the Dean of the Faculty and the IRB sent out a joint email to the faculty stating IRB policies and procedures would take effect immediately as follows:

1. In-person human subjects research may only be conducted by Skidmore-affiliated investigators with Skidmore-affiliated participants (e.g., only faculty, staff and undergraduate students who are required to be tested for COVID-19 per the College's Student and Employee Testing Protocols).
2. Investigators with currently active IRB protocols who plan to conduct in-person on-campus human subjects research must submit a protocol amendment request that details how social distancing will be maintained and proper PPE employed.
3. All new IRB applications proposing in-person, on-campus human subjects research must include details outlining how social distancing will be maintained and proper PPE employed.
4. No protocols involving exercise (e.g., use of treadmill, climbing stairs, rowing, dance, etc.) will be permitted.
5. No waiting room areas for human subjects will be allowed.
6. Each human subject must complete the mandatory health screening prior to each visit, which must be collected and maintained by the principal investigator.
7. All IRB applications proposing in-person research will be reviewed by the full board.

These policies remained in effect until the end of the 2020-2021 academic year.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Hoehn, IRB Chair