

School of Nursing
Office of Research Policy

Documentation of Review of Research for Scientific or Scholarly Merit

Purpose: The University of Louisville School of Nursing is committed to protecting the rights and welfare of human subjects involved in research. Protection of subjects includes an assessment of the benefits of the research and of the risks, and the determination of an appropriate and favorable ratio between the two. The scientific or scholarly merit of a research activity may affect the benefits that could result from the research and therefore impact the risk benefit equation. External legal and ethical requirements mandate the University and members of its research community to review research for which they are responsible. The purpose of this policy is for the School of Nursing to be compliant with the University policy concerning review of research for scientific or scholarly merit (<http://www.ori.louisville.edu/Policies/Policy%20for%20Review%20for%20Scientific-Scholarly%20Merit%2012-11-03.pdf>).

Procedure: All protocols involving human subjects must undergo scientific or scholarly review by an internal review committee, or alternatively, the review process can be ceded to the funding agency to which the application is submitted. The purpose of the review, which must take place prior to submission to the Institutional Review Board (IRB), is to ensure that the approach is sound and the research design will yield valid results. Projects, which receive extramural funding, can elect to cede the review for scientific or scholarly merit to the funding agency by completing sections I, III and IV of the Department Scientific or Scholarly Merit Review of Research Protocols Involving Human Subjects form included in the IRB application (See <http://www.ori.louisville.edu/Policies/UofL%20Scientific%20Review%20Policy%20Form-12-11-03.pdf>). If the research is not supported by an extramural source or if the Principal Investigator wishes, the project will be reviewed for scientific or scholarly merit by the Associate Dean for Research. If the Associate Dean for Research is named as an investigator or consultant on the project the School of Nursing's Research Committee will complete the review for scientific or scholarly merit. The departmental review will include evaluating the Principal Investigator's responses to the three questions included in Section II of the Department Scientific or Scholarly Merit Review of Research Protocols Involving Human Subjects form included in the IRB application. If all of the responses are reviewed positively the Associate Dean for Research or the Chair of the Research Committee will sign Section III Department Scientific or Scholarly Merit Review of Research Protocols Involving Human Subjects form included in the IRB application acknowledging the scientific or scholarly merit of the project. Once this approval has been obtained the application can then be reviewed by the IRB. If any of these responses are reviewed negatively the project will be terminated and not submitted to the IRB for review.

Date Adopted