Does Your Project Require UNM IRB Review?
Decision Tree #1

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 collections, 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 (in physical or online environments, including social media)

YES

Is the information being collected ‘about’ individuals?

NO

YES

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)

Not human participant research, NO application to the IRB is needed.

Is the sole intent of the project to meet course requirements, with no intention to use the results for something other than the course assignment?

NO

YES

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

Refer to IRB Decision Tree #2 on Existing/Secondary data

NO, research will use only existing data

Is this a class project?

NO

YES

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

NO

YES

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

NO

YES

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

NO

YES

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

Not human participant research, NO application to the IRB is needed.

Published materials will be limited to only documenting or reporting on events, situations, policies, institutions or systems without the intent to generalize the outcomes for other organizations, programs, or services.

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?

NO

YES

Project is research with human subjects. An application to the IRB office and written notice of approval are required before the study can begin. Forms are available at irb.unm.edu. Questions? Contact irbmaincampus@unm.edu.

V09.14.15
Does Your Research Involving Secondary or Existing Data, Documents, or Biological Specimens Require Review by the UNM IRB?

**Decision Tree #2**

**Are the data/specimens about or from individuals who are or may still be living?**

**NO**
- (Materials are from cadavers, or data is about deceased individuals.)

**Project is NOT Human Subjects Research. No application to the UNM IRB Office is needed.**

**YES**
- Are the data (human tissue, educational records, etc.) obtained from a producer or supplier of **public use data**; **OR**
- Is the data **available in the public domain** (i.e., in a way that can be seen by anyone)?

**NO**
- Were/will the data (be) collected **specifically for the research** through interaction or intervention with living individuals?

**NO**
- Provider is solely providing data, with no role in the research

**Can the provider link the data, directly or indirectly, to identifiable living individuals?**

**YES**
- Can the **recipient** link the data directly to identifiable living individuals either directly or through a code?

**YES**
- Project is **Human Subjects Research**. Application to the IRB Office and written notice of approval or notice of exemption are required before research can begin. Forms are available at irb.unm.edu. Questions? Contact irbmaincampus@unm.edu

**NO**
- Is the **provider a collaborator in the recipient’s research**? (i.e. involved in the design, conduct or reporting of the research, listed as collaborator on research proposals or protocols, planned sharing of authorship credit)

**YES**
- (Recipient has access to identifiable data.)

**YES**
- (Recipient and provider are collaborators on the research.)

**Reference:**