

## WHAT IS AN IRB?

Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) are responsible for protecting the safety, rights, and welfare of participants in human research.

The IRB consists of a diverse group of members with varying backgrounds to promote complete and adequate review of research activities.

Federal regulations stipulate the IRB must include a member who is not affiliated with the institution in order to ensure the interests of the non-university community are being served.



Accreditation by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs demonstrates UK's commitment to the highest ethical standards in conducting human research.

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[www.research.uky.edu/ori](http://www.research.uky.edu/ori)

*An Equal Opportunity University*



## Advocate for Your Community

Serve as an  
unaffiliated member  
of the University of  
Kentucky Institutional  
Review Board!



## What do I need to know?

Bring an interest in the ethical conduct of research and we'll teach you the rest!

Members can be a part of the regular IRB or may serve as an alternate. All members are appointed for a 3-year term with the option for renewal, and may resign at any time.

Learn more about IRB membership at:

[www.research.uky.edu/office-research-integrity/institutional-review-board-irb-membership](http://www.research.uky.edu/office-research-integrity/institutional-review-board-irb-membership)

For more information or to volunteer, contact Pam Stafford at [pastaf3@uky.edu](mailto:pastaf3@uky.edu)

## The Unaffiliated Member's Role

Federal regulations state that IRBs must be diverse and include three kinds of members: scientists, nonscientists, and members not affiliated with the institution. The unaffiliated member brings a unique perspective to the table.

This member's role is to represent the public's concerns – to serve the public community's interests rather than the university's.

This committee member must be:

- Not affiliated with the University of Kentucky, either directly or through an immediate family member
- Able to prepare for and attend most committee meetings; meetings are set for a particular weekday and are held about 3-4 weeks apart
- Able to attend occasional education sessions
- Comfortable with basic computer operations

## You Can Facilitate High Ethical Standards in Research

The IRB is charged with reviewing all research projects that involve humans at the University of Kentucky, including everything from surveys to clinical trials.

The board collectively reviews research for compliance with research regulations and application of high ethical standards.

The IRB provides ongoing oversight and support of research teams to promote high quality research and practices that safeguard study participants.

