

**University of Maryland Institutional Review Board
Revisions to Common Rule
Effective 7/19/2018***

Category:	Definition:
What is Research?	<p>An activity where an investigator is:</p> <p>Engaged in a research project that is designed to test a hypothesis or assess a theory by proposing or intending to explore a particular research topic that is “about” a living individual by obtaining private information or identifiable biospecimens from that person through an intervention or interaction that is used, studied or analyzed which generates identifiable private information or identifiable biospecimens which will then develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge by drawing general conclusions (e.g., knowledge gained from a study may be applied to populations outside of the specific study population), or inform policy and then either publish (e.g., in a journal) or present at a professional conference.</p>
Who are human subjects?	<p>Living individual about whom an investigator conducting research obtains (1) data through intervention or interaction with the individual, or (2) identifiable private information or identifiable biospecimens.</p>
What is NOT research?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal management projects, such as program evaluation, quality assurance, quality improvement, or marketing studies. • Projects that only document or report on events, situations, policies, institutions or systems without the intent to form hypotheses. • Projects which collect information about policies, practices or procedures. • Interviews or surveys which do not collect information about a person, such as interviews on government or corporate policies. • Production of creative arts, e.g., writing poetry and prose, painting, taking artistic photographs. • Oral history, journalism, biography, and historical scholarship or journalistic activities. • Reporting of current events, trends, newsworthy issues or stories about people or events, such as those presented in the news, magazines and on-scholarly periodicals • Secondary data from publicly available sources. <p>Classroom projects conducted for educational purposes and not as research (as defined above).</p>