



Boston College  
Office for Research Protections

**Human Participant Research Training Policy**  
Updated 9/22/2020

Appropriate training is required for all research personnel who participate in the conduct of human participant research. In the past, a variety of training programs were accepted to satisfy this requirement. In order to achieve consistency in training quality and continuity, this policy applies to human participant research performed by research personnel on projects approved by the Boston College IRB. For the purpose of this policy, the term “research personnel” includes anyone (e.g., faculty, post-docs, students, research staff) who is engaged in the conduct of research. It also includes faculty advisors on student research protocols.

1. . Effective July 1, 2008, unless an exception in Point 2 below applies the CITI training program (<http://www.citiprogram.org/default.asp?language=english>) will be the only training program that is considered to satisfy the training requirement for human participant research conducted by research personnel on projects approved by the Boston College IRB. The only modules in the CITI training program that meet the requirement are the Biomedical and Social/Behavioral module. The Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) module *does not* satisfy this requirement.
2. Other training certificates will be accepted under the following conditions:
  - a. If a research personnel have recently joined the Boston College community and has a training certificate awarded by an institution having an active Federal-Wide Assurance, or a training certificate issued by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), dated no more than two years prior to the submission of an IRB application; or
  - b. If a researcher located at another institution participates on a project approved by the Boston College IRB, and has a training certificate from his/her institution, and the certificate is regarded as active by his/her institution.
3. The CITI, or any other accepted training certificates will be regarded as being active for three years from the date of recorded on the certificate.
4. At the expiration of the CITI training certificate (i.e., three years from the recorded date on the certificate), research personnel are required to take the CITI Refresher Course in order for an IRB application to be approved.

5. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Boston College IRB, at its sole discretion, may require that researchers complete specific training. This may include, but is not limited to, high-risk research projects.