

**Tarrant County College District
Institutional Review Board
Frequently Asked Questions**

IRB-Specific Questions:

What is an IRB?

An IRB is an Institutional Review Board for human subjects. Institutions that receive federal funding to conduct research are required to have their research approved by an IRB. The TCCD IRB can: (a) review, (b) approve, (c) disapprove or (d) require modifications to submitted research proposals that involve human subjects.

The District IRB does not assist in research design or the writing of dissertation proposals nor does it evaluate the merits or review proposals for contribution to scholarly literature. The IRB is not an editorial service.

The role of the TCCD IRB is to review research proposals for standards of compliance in regards to participant risk, informed consent and confidentiality. As part of that process the IRB is obligated to evaluate the study design as well as aspects of the scientific quality because these are ethical issues that affect the rights and welfare of the study participants.

Why does TCCD have an IRB?

Federal regulations, and TCCD's Federal Wide Assurance requires that all proposed human subjects research be reviewed by an IRB prior to the initiation of the research. The IRB is in place to protect the rights and welfare of human subjects through the examination of a research study's: (a) risks and benefits, (b) informed consent, (c) research methodology and (d) privacy issues such as confidentiality and anonymity.

Who are the IRB members?

TCCD IRB membership includes a minimum of five people from the following areas: (a) the Director of Analytics, from as Chair, (b) an administrative student development employee, (c) two faculty members (one from the hard sciences and the other from a soft discipline) and (d) an external community member.

How are IRB members chosen?

IRB faculty members may be nominated by the campus presidents, the current IRB Chair, or volunteers may submit their names for consideration. Two nominees are then selected by the current Board members to serve a renewable three-year commitment. The student development and external community member are chosen by the current Chair to serve a (renewable) three-year commitment. Alternate IRB members may be nominated by current Board members.

What authority does the TCCD IRB have?

TCCD's IRB Charter establishes and empowers the TCCD IRB for the protection of human subjects. Currently TCCD has one committee registered with the federal Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) as its IRB (IRB 00009412). Federal regulations give the TCCD IRB the authority to review all research that involves human subjects. The TCCD IRB's authority does not extend to projects that do not involve human subjects.