

Assessment in Student Affairs and the Institutional Review Board (IRB)
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The need for IRB review is not affected by whether findings are to be published or presented at a conference. This is a change from the past when IRB review was required for research whose findings would be published or presented.

IRB review **is not** required for most of our assessment research

- Because assessment of normal educational practices is exempt from IRB review.
- Additionally, most of our research
 - Uses a survey or questionnaire
 - Does not collect information from vulnerable populations (e.g., persons under the age of 18, prisoners, or persons with HIV/AIDS)
 - Does not link responses to individuals, and
 - Does not inquire about sensitive information.

IRB review **is** required when

- The organization providing the assessment instrument (e.g., the NASPA Assessment Consortium) requires IRB review of the instrument before it is administered.
- The research inquires about sensitive information (e.g., sexual behaviors or drug use such as in the National College Health Assessment or Reams' Health Behaviors Survey, financial data, or any other information that could be linked to a particular individual and could potentially damage their reputation in some way) even if the questionnaire is anonymous.
 - If your research will inquire about potentially sensitive information, even if participants remain anonymous, please consult with Dr. Jane Childers, Chair of the IRB.