IRB Policy II:

GUST Student Class Assignments/Projects.

Policy Definition. Any activities required in a course of study as student class assignments and/or projects involving human participants may or may not meet the definition of research. It is the policy of the IRB not to review class assignments/projects unless they meet the definition of “human participant research.” The purpose of this policy is to provide: (1) information for students and their course instructors in determining when application to the RDO’s IRB is required through understanding of the definition of “research” and “human participant” and (2) information on the responsibilities of the student(s) and course instructor(s) in the conduct of activities when IRB or RDO review is not required.

IRB review and approval or an RDO exemption determination is required only when activities meet the definition of both “research” and “human participant”. Student class assignments/projects that meet the definition of both “research” and “human participant” must be submitted to the RDO’s IRB for review and approval.

Generally, student class assignments/projects are not intended or likely to lead to generalizable results and would not meet the definition of “research” as defined in GUST’s research policy. True student class assignments/projects are typically conducted within the realm of assignments/projects for a class setting and do not extend beyond the classroom via dissemination.

Dissemination of findings to a scientific audience is a sufficient, but not the exclusive, criterion for meeting the definition of research. Dissemination includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Undergraduate honor's theses;
- Master's theses;
- Research exhibitions;
- Presentation at a scientific meeting or conference;
- Submission to or publication, paper or electronic, in a professional journal; and internet postings.
- If the results of a student's class assignment/project will be published, presented, or otherwise disseminated beyond the GUST community, the student’s class assignments/projects must be reviewed and approved by the RDO's IRB prior to involving human participants.