

Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects (IRB)

Federal regulations mandate that research involving human participants must be reviewed and approved by an Institutional Review Board (IRB). The IRB has the responsibility of reviewing, prior to initiation, all research involving human participants (this includes funded and not funded research). The IRB is concerned with protecting the welfare, rights and privacy of human subjects.

The majority of applications are reviewed via expedited review (outside a full board meeting); this significantly decreases the review time of submissions.

The IRB Office has been providing more samples of recruitment materials, consent forms etc. for Principal Investigators to use as guidance when preparing their applications.

With the new Federal regulations that took effect January 2019 (Revised Common Rule) some minimal risk expedited studies will no longer require continuing review which will reduce administrative burden for the PI and IRB.

Committee Membership

The committee is made up of seven UMaine faculty from various disciplines, one of which serves as the chair. Also includes an outside member not affiliated with UMaine.