Qualifications of a Principal Investigator

Modified: January 2017

What are the categories of individuals who may be a Principal Investigator on a human subjects research study overseen by a UF IRB?

In order to ensure the protection of research subjects and regulatory compliance, only the individuals listed below may serve as the Principal Investigator (PI) on projects overseen by a UF IRB. The University of Florida may grant exceptions to the following on a case-by-case basis. Research must be within the PI’s scope of expertise or the project must include co-investigators who provide sufficient expertise. When an individual is a faculty or staff person, but is conducting the research as a student, then the student rules apply for that individual, as it relates to the protocol being submitted. Academic titles and definitions are based on UF Regulation 7.003 http://regulations.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/7003.pdf. For questions regarding titles that do not appear on this guidance on Students Conducting Human Subjects Research, please contact the IRB office.

- UF faculty with full time or part time compensated appointments
  - Adjunct appointments may only be a PI with written approval from the Institutional Official or designee.
  - Excludes courtesy appointments, OPS lines, or visiting faculty

- UF faculty with emeritus appointments

- UF residents or graduate students; with the following limitations:
  - Minimal risk studies only (such as chart reviews, surveys, educational research)
    - Provided there is documentation of a faculty mentor (see description below)
  - Excludes international research regardless of risk. A faculty mentor must be the PI.

- UF fellows or Postdoctoral Associates; with the following limitations:
  - Minimal risk studies only (such as chart reviews, surveys, educational research)
  - Greater than minimal risk studies on a case-by-case basis
  - There is documentation of a faculty mentor (see description below)
  - Excludes international research regardless of risk. A faculty mentor must be the PI.

- UF staff (full time or part time)

- Shands staff (full time or part time)

- North Florida/South Georgia Veteran’s Health System (NF/SG VHS) staff (full time or part time) as indicated by NF/SG VHS requirements.
  - Excludes individuals designated as “Without Compensation” (WOC) appointments.

The following individuals are prohibited from serving as the Principal Investigator on human subjects research studies submitted to UF IRBs:

- UF undergraduate students
- Volunteers
- Individuals who are not affiliated with UF, Shands, or the NF/SG VHS
• Any correspondent student (defined as a non-local student enrolled in a UF run distance learning class or program)
• UF Faculty with Courtesy/Honorary/Affiliated Clinical/Industry appointments
• Individuals who are only affiliated with UF, Shands, or the NF/SG VHS as volunteers.
• Individuals who may be affiliated with UF, Shands, or the NF/SG VHS but are conducting their research outside of that affiliation (e.g. as a private citizen or other affiliation).
• Anyone deemed insufficiently qualified by the IRB or institution, for the research being submitted.
• Anyone restricted from serving as a PI by the institution or a UF IRB.
• Anyone banned or similarly prohibited from engaging in Human Subjects Research by a regulatory agency.