

Policy Title: Human Research Ethics
Policy Approver: Senate
Policy Holder: Provost and Vice-President, Academic
Category: Academic
Original Date: May 2009
Review Date: May 2023
Next review: May 2026

Policy Statement

Yukon University endorses and applies the principles set out in the Tri-Council Policy Statement Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans: TCPS2 2022. The University expects that researchers conduct their research in accordance with established ethical procedures.

All research undertaken by members of, or conducted at Yukon University must be reviewed and approved by Yukon University Research Ethics Board prior to being conducted. The ethical review, approval and monitoring of research involving humans will be done by the Research Ethics Board (REB). This Board is responsible to the University President in all matters concerning research involving human participants.

Approval Statement

With the approval of Senate on May 17, 2023, this policy is hereby deemed in effect immediately.



Co-Chair, Senate

May 31, 2023

Date



Co-Chair, Senate

June 12, 2023

Date

1. Purpose of Policy

The policy is designed to facilitate the ethical practice of research involving humans at Yukon University and to ensure that research conducted at Yukon University, or by Yukon University faculty, staff, or students, will follow recognized ethical standards and practices.

The purpose is served by assisting researchers in identifying and solving ethical research problems and is not intended to censor or impose limits on academic freedom. The responsibility for the ethical conduct of research always remains with individual researchers who should value and respect the well-being of human participants involved in the research.

The Human Research Ethics Policy is designed to minimize the University's liabilities associated with research at the institution or research by members of the University community who use the University name to apply for funding or to access other resources.

The Research Ethics Board (REB) will govern research involving human participants at Yukon University. Research involving humans will be reviewed and approved by the REB.

2. Governing Legislation and Relevant Documents

- AR-02 Research Integrity
- AR-03 Animal Care and Use
- AR-05 Intellectual Property
- AR-06 Conflict of Interest in Research
- BOG-03 Yukon University President Responsibilities
- IP-11 Information Access and Privacy Protection
- VPA-1.0 Adjunct Faculty, Research Associates and Visiting Scholars
- Tri-Council Policy Statement: "Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans" [TCPS2 2022](#) (Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada)
- [Agreement on the Administration of Agency Grants and Awards by Research Institutions](#)
- [Yukon University Research Ethics Board Terms of Reference](#)
- [Yukon University Research Ethics Board Standard Operating Procedures \(SOPs\) 2022.](#)

3. Scope

This policy applies to all research activities involving human participants undertaken by Yukon University faculty, staff, students and visiting researchers regardless of the source of financial support and irrespective of the location of the research. Research carried out by external researchers or investigators who access resources or participants at the University is also covered by this policy.

4. Definitions (and Acronyms)

- **Concern for Welfare:** A core ethical principle that requires researchers and research ethics boards to aim to protect the welfare of participants (i.e., the quality of a person's experience of life in all its aspects and the impact on individuals of factors such as their physical, mental, and spiritual health, as well as their physical, economic, and social circumstances).
- **Conflict of Interest:** The incompatibility of two or more duties, responsibilities, or interests (personal or professional) of an individual or institution as they relate to the ethical conduct of research such that one cannot be fulfilled without compromising another. A conflict of interest may arise in research when activities or situations place an individual in a real, potential, or perceived conflict between the duties and responsibilities related to the research interests and personal, institutional, or other interests.
- **Justice:** A core ethical principle that refers to the obligation to treat people fairly and equitably. Fairness entails treating all people with equal respect and concern. Equity requires distributing the benefits and burden of research participation so that no segment of the population is unduly burdened by the harms of research or denied the benefits of the knowledge gained from it.
- **Participant:** Any person who is used as a source of data in the conduct of research.
- **REB:** The Yukon University Research Ethics Board
- **Research:** An undertaking intending to extend knowledge through a disciplined inquiry or systematic investigation, or both.

- **Researcher or Investigator:** Anyone who conducts research activities, including but not limited to, faculty, staff and students, associates, adjunct faculty, visiting faculty or institutional administrators.
- **Respect for Persons:** A core ethical principle that recognizes the intrinsic value of human beings and the respect and consideration that they are due. The principle incorporates a moral obligation to respect autonomy and protect those with developing, impaired, or diminished autonomy.
- **TCPS2 (2022):** Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans.

5. Guiding Principles

Yukon University supports and encourages the maintenance of the highest ethical standards in research and scholarship. It is expected that anyone conducting research involving human subjects under the auspices of the University will incorporate ethical principles in their research activities and will ensure continued compliance with these principles.

Respect for human dignity requires that research involving humans be conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the inherent worth of all human beings and the respect and consideration that they are due. Respect for human dignity is expressed through three core principles described in the Tri-Council Policy Statement (TCPS2 2022) - Respect for Persons, Concern for Welfare and Justice. Yukon University research involving human participants is guided by these three principles.

The University is committed to safeguarding the rights and well-being of human subjects of research activities in which the University is involved by adhering to ethical standards and principles.

The REB will follow the Network-of-Networks/Canadian Association of Research Ethics Boards Standard Operating Procedures to ensure that standard procedures are followed for human research ethics requirements.

6. Other Related and/or Accompanying Documents

Addendum A – Policy Communication Checklist

7. Document History

Include all updates here, including housekeeping changes, beginning with formal approval.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Update</i>
May 2009	Research Ethics Policy (Original Approval Date)
October 2014	Revisions approved
December 2020	Research Services, Research Ethics Board revisions suggested

ADDENDUM A - POLICY COMMUNICATION CHECKLIST

Policy Name: Human Research Ethics Policy

Number: AR-03.01

Submitted by: Valoree Walker

List those consulted with in preparation of this policy:

Name	Department	Date
Bronwyn Hancock, Vice- Provost	Academic & Student Services	April 2023
Research Ethics Board members	Various Yukon University departments	December 2020
Valoree Walker, Research Ethics Coordinator	Research Services Office	December 2020, January 2022