



BVC Learners and Research Ethics

Course-based Research

As part of a course, learners may be assigned to do activities that involve research. These activities are generally meant to build skills in a particular area and the results of the activities often do not go beyond the classroom.

Course-based research activities may include:

- Having students conduct interviews, administer surveys/questionnaires
- Conduct small research projects where students collect data, analyze it, and then prepare a presentation on the results
- Other research activities

If these activities are used for the purpose of research (e.g., a student's own research or a researcher's own research), then these activities must be approved by the Bow Valley College Research Ethics Board. However, if these are purely pedagogical activities, the ethical approval may be delegated to a non-REB member (e.g., an instructor) for review. This reviewer must have the adequate experience, expertise, and knowledge to make an informed decision (TCPS 2, 2014, Article 6.12).

If you have a question about research ethics relating to coursework involving research, or are wondering whether you will need to go through an ethics review for the classroom research activities, please contact the Research Ethics Board Chair.

Learners doing Research

Learners who are conducting their own research must go through the research ethics application process if they are doing research with any Bow Valley College faculty, staff, or learners.

Doing research using learners as participants

Learners may be asked for their participation in a research project. However, it is important to consider the answers to the following when planning research to ensure ethical compliance:

- How will the learners be recruited?
- What is the relationship between the researcher and the learner? With the recruiter and the learner?

- Will the consent be informed, voluntary, and ongoing? How will the study be explained to the learners?
- Will the research take place during class time?
- Will the learners be compensated?

For more information on research ethics, please see:

- Tri-Council Policy Statement 2 (2014):
http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/pdf/eng/tcps2-2014/TCPS_2_FINAL_Web.pdf