

Human Research Protocols Identified as Undergraduate Projects

(run by RPO 1/14/09)

	Physical Sciences	Humanities	Social Sciences	Life Sciences	Medical Sciences	Other Programs	Total
FY '08	0	1	8	3	5	0	17
Exempt	-	0	4	1	0	-	5
Expedited	-	1	3	1	3	-	8
Full	-	0	1	1	2	-	4
FY '07	0	4	15	4	4	1	28
Exempt	-	0	7	1	2	1	11
Expedited	-	4	5	3	1	0	13
Full	-	0	3	0	1	0	4
FY '06	0	1	23	3	11	0	38
Exempt	-	1	4	0	7	-	12
Expedited	-	0	16	2	3	-	21
Full	-	0	3	1	1	-	5
FY '05	0	0	25	2	8	0	35
Exempt	-	-	9	2	4	-	15
Expedited	-	-	11	0	1	-	12
Full	-	-	5	0	3	-	8
FY '04	0	0	10	5	11	0	26
Exempt	-	-	2	4	5	-	11
Expedited	-	-	6	0	2	-	8
Full	-	-	2	1	4	-	7

Notes on table:

Undergraduate research is often not identified as such by faculty members in research protocols. With the change of policy as of 7/1/06 regarding who can be a PI, advisors may simply modify their own studies to include the student project, while other advisors submit protocols without designating the protocol as a student project.

Prior to 7/1/06, all undergraduate theses were considered to be "research". As of 7/1/06, theses are evaluated individually to determine whether they meet the definition of research. This change in University practice has contributed to a decrease in the number of student projects that need IRB review.

Increased outreach regarding what constitutes human research is reflected in the submission of fewer protocols over the last two years. By utilizing web pages, open hours, training.brown.edu, and well-trained staff to clarify definitions of "research" and "human subjects", RPO informs the research community and has reduced protocol submission numbers.