### Risk Analysis

**Section Notes:** Risks can generally be categorized as physical, psychological, sociological, economic and legal. A risk is a potential harm associated with the research that a reasonable person would consider important in deciding whether to participate in the research.

- Include a reasonably detailed description of the alternatives that subject(s) could try instead of the research activities should they elect not to participate in the protocol.
- The potential benefit(s) for research must justify the risk to human subject(s). Some risks may not be reasonable, no matter how important the potential benefit(s). The risk/benefit ratio of the research must be at least as favorable for the subject(s) as that presented by standard treatments for their condition(s). When comparing the risk/benefit ratio of research with that of an available alternative, the alternative of doing nothing, or “watchful waiting” should be included in the analysis.

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**O-1. Almost all research involves risk.** Does this research involve any of the following possible risk(s) or harm(s) to subject(s)? *(Check all that apply)*

- [ ] Personal or sensitive information in survey(s) or interview(s) identifies subject
- [ ] Use of private records *(example: educational, medical records, etc.)* identifies subject
- [ ] Possible invasion of privacy of subject or family
- [ ] Confidential data becomes public
- [ ] Presentation of material subjects might consider sensitive, offensive, degrading or threatening
- [ ] Decline in educational motivation
- [ ] Damage to teacher-student relationship
- [ ] Grade reduction
- [ ] Fail a class
- [ ] Academic suspension
- [ ] Embarrassment
- [ ] Psychological stress
- [ ] Social risk
- [ ] Social isolation
- [ ] Damage to professional reputation
- [ ] Loss of business *(example: lose clientele, etc.)*
- [ ] Potential job loss
- [ ] Eviction
- [ ] Being arrested
- [ ] Sensory deprivation
- [ ] Exposure to hazardous or radioactive material
- [ ] Physical discomfort
- [ ] Physical harm
- [ ] Major physical or psychological trauma
- [ ] Death
- [ ] Other risk(s) specify:

  

- [ ] This research does not have any risk

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**O-2.** Will coercion be used in this research? *(example: Survey participation is required to receive a grade in the course. Students are not given the option of any alternative.)*

- [ ] No, coercion will not be used.
- [ ] Yes, coercion is a part of this research.

Justify and support the use of coercion in this research.

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O-3. Is perceived coercion present in this research? *(example: Participation in class survey is optional and will not affect a grade but student may feel professor will know they did not participate and will give individual a lower grade.)*

☐ No, perceived coercion will not be present.
☐ Yes, perceived coercion may be present.

Justify and support the use of perceived coercion in this research.


O-4. Will deception be used in the research? *(example: Subjects are told they are completing an IQ test but the researchers are really studying how subjects deal with stress in a test taking situation.)*

☐ No, deception will not be used.
☐ Yes, deception will be used. Provide the following information:

a. Justify and support the use of deception in this research.


b. Provide a detailed description of the debriefing process.


c. Describe how you will ensure that each individual has been debriefed.


O-5. Describe in detail any physical, psychological, economic, social, legal or other risk(s) associated with each intervention(s)/research procedure(s) in this research.

☐ No risk(s) exists.
☐ Yes, risk(s) is involved; describe each risk(s) and explain why the risk(s) is necessary. *(Address all risk(s) identified in O-1.)*

a. Immediate risk(s):


b. Long range risk(s):


c. Rationale for the necessity of such risk(s):


d. What is the probability that a given risk(s) may occur, its severity and its potential for reversibility?


e. What procedures will be used to prevent/minimize any potential risk(s)?
f. What alternative methods could be used that might reduce the above mentioned risk(s)?


g. Describe why the alternatives are not feasible.


O-6. Does this research give an immediate and/or long term direct value to subjects participating in this research?

☐ No.
☐ Yes. Describe the anticipated benefit(s) of this research to subject(s). Explain how the benefit(s) of participating outweigh the risk(s) of participating.


O-7. Describe the **anticipated benefit(s) of this research for society.** Societal benefits refer to the advancement of knowledge and possible value to future individuals. Explain how the benefit(s) outweigh the risk(s) of this research.


