



Research Ethics Committee

Best Practices for Using Extra Credit in Research

If extra credit is offered as a means of “compensation” for student participation in research, the following additional procedures should be followed in order for the REC to consider approving the use of extra credit:

1. The use of extra credit as a means of coercion and undue influence to encourage student participation is prohibited.
 - a. Extra credit offered for participation cannot be so great that it would cloud the student’s judgment about the risks or other factors when deciding whether to participate.
 - b. Points awarded for extra credit should be a reasonably small proportion of the total course grade.
2. To ensure that students gain meaningful learning experiences from participating in research studies, the extra credit opportunity for research participation (or the comparable alternative) shall include an educational component if possible.
3. An alternative, non-graded assignment, with comparable time and effort requirements must also be offered as a non-research opportunity to earn extra credit for students that are ineligible for or opt out of the research.
4. The recruitment and consent documents must clearly state the voluntariness of participating in the research project AND the opportunity to complete a non-research alternative for the same extra credit.
5. Points awarded for participation shall be offered on an all or none basis. That is, extra credit is awarded upon completion of participation regardless of the usability of the data provided (i.e. no grading of research participation shall occur).
6. All students participating in the research are eligible to earn the same amount of extra credit. That is, if recruitment is occurring across multiple programs or courses, all students must be offered the same amount of extra credit.



- a. In cases where students are enrolled in multiple courses included in the research and /or there are multiple research opportunities within a course / program, students are limited to one instance of extra credit related to research participation (or non-research alternative).
7. Students must not be penalized for refusing to participate in research.
8. Course instructors should be blinded to the participation status of the students when possible.
9. Investigators must provide signed letters from all faculty requested to recruit students as participants indicating their agreement to adhere to the aforementioned terms of the extra credit offering.

Last reviewed and approved by REC: May 1st, 2024