

Faculty of Health Sciences Policy for Ethics Review

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University of the Free State

Faculty of Health Sciences

Policy for Ethics Review

The Faculty of Health Sciences Research and Postgraduate Committee would like to inform researchers of the **Faculty of Health Sciences Policy for Ethics Review** that is applicable to all research performed within the Faculty of Health Sciences by staff, students and affiliates.

All research performed by staff, students and affiliates of the Faculty of Health Sciences should be submitted to one of the ethics committees on UFS campus, appropriate to the specific research.

Committee	Purpose
Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee (HSREC)	All health science-related research which involves participants who are either patients, employees and/or students of the Free State Department of Health or the Faculty of Health Sciences. All health sciences-related research which reflects on teaching and learning, research, leadership and administration, and/or engaged scholarship within the Faculty of Health Sciences
General/Human Research Ethics Committee (GHREC)	All research that is NOT health-related, or bio-safety- (hazardous material included) related, must be submitted to the GHREC
Animal Research Ethics Committee (AREC)	If there is use of animals in any form or shape, the research must be submitted to AREC
Environmental and Bio-Safety Research Ethics Committee (EBREC)	Environmental and bio-hazardous material related research must be submitted to the EBREC.

All of the following research requires ethical approval and should be submitted to a University of the Free State ethics committee for review:

1. Systematic reviews and meta-analyses
2. Sub-studies of a main study that has previously received ethics approval
3. Case reports/series
4. Original research projects
5. Contract research
6. Research that has been approved by another institution (multi-centre collaborative studies)
7. All research where:
 - 7.1. The participants are either patients or employees of the Free State Department of Health or the Faculty of Health Sciences.
 - 7.2. The researcher/s are employees of the Free State Department of

- Health of the Faculty of Health Sciences of the UFS.
- 7.3. Research of students registered with the faculty of Health Sciences.

The following should apply for ethics waiver:

1. Research based solely on review of *materials available in the public domain* such as:
 - 1.1. Newspapers, websites, magazines, public reports, public statements, films, television programmes, public performances, public exhibitions, public speeches, published works, archived materials that are available in the public domain
2. Examples of studies that qualify for ethics waiver:
 - 2.1. Reviews: e.g., narrative, scoping or integrative reviews (not systematic reviews)
 - 2.2. Derivation strategies
 - 2.3. Synthesis strategies
 - 2.4. Analysis strategies
 - 2.5. Concept, statement and theory testing
