



<b>Name:</b>	<b>Saint Mary's University Policy on Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans</b>
<b>Policy Number:</b>	8-1011
<b>Origin:</b>	Research Ethics Board
<b>Approved:</b>	September 17, 1999
<b>Issuing Authority:</b>	Research Ethics Board
<b>Responsibility:</b>	Research Ethics Board
<b>Revision Date(s):</b>	May 14, 2010; September 28, 2018
<b>Effective Date:</b>	September 24, 2019

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#### **Preamble:**

Saint Mary's University values scientific research and believes that research involving humans as participants should balance the need for scientific inquiry with the need to protect the welfare of participants. Committed to the advancement of knowledge and the training of students, Saint Mary's University promotes good research and recognizes that ethical research is an integral part of scientific inquiry. Saint Mary's University endorses the principles of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct of Research Involving Humans, December 2018 (and subsequent revisions and amendments; hereafter referred to as the TCPS2). The Saint Mary's University Research Ethics Board (REB) applies the principles of the TCPS2 and outlines provisions designed to promote ethical research.

#### **Purpose:**

The Saint Mary's University REB is a committee of the Faculty of Research and Graduate Studies and the Office of the Vice-President, Academic and Research. It was established under the provisions of the TCPS2 to ensure that research carried out by Saint Mary's University researchers, or research involving members of the SMU community (e.g., full and part-time faculty, adjunct professors, students, administrators, employees and other persons holding appointments by the Board of Governors), adheres to the TCPS2 as well as any applicable laws, university policies, and REB procedures.

The REB provides a service to the Saint Mary's University community by working with researchers to identify and resolve ethical issues in their research with the goal of protecting the interests of participants, maximizing the expected benefits of the research, and minimizing potential harms to participants. The REB is empowered to clear, reject, propose modifications to, suspend, or terminate research projects that involve human participants and that fall under the jurisdiction of Saint Mary's University and the purview of the TCPS2. The REB shall not mandate how research is to be conducted if that research concurs with the principles of the TCPS2.

**Definition:**

“Research”

“an undertaking intended to extend knowledge through a disciplined inquiry and/or systematic investigation”  
(TCPS2, 2018, Chapter 2. A. Article 2.1.)

**Policy:**

The TCPS2 applies to research involving humans conducted by members of Saint Mary's University including full and part-time faculty, adjunct professors, students, administrators, employees and other persons holding appointments from the Board of Governors. Research that involves human participants, and falls under the TCPS2, must be submitted to the REB for ethics review regardless of where the research takes place.

Research projects (funded or unfunded) submitted to the REB may include, but are not limited to, faculty research, undergraduate or graduate research projects, honours theses, master's theses, doctoral theses, major research projects, dissertations, or any other research activities involving humans. Research applications must be submitted by full-time faculty members of Saint Mary's University or adjunct faculty from any department at Saint Mary's University. Those who demonstrate to the REB that they have sufficient expertise to conduct a particular type of research independently are also eligible to submit an application to the REB. Research projects that involve the use of secondary data may also require ethics review.

It is the obligation of researcher to determine whether their proposed research project requires ethics review and, if so, to submit an application to the REB for review. In the case of student research, it is the responsibility of the professor assigned to the course and/or supervising the research to determine whether the proposed activities constitute research as defined by the TCPS2. Researchers may consult with the Research Ethics Officer or the REB Chairperson to discern whether ethics review is required or to resolve ethical issues related to their research.