Calvin University Institutional Review Board (IRB)

Guidelines for Class Assignments and Course-based Research

The Calvin University Institutional Review Board (IRB) provides the following guidance for class activities and assignments that involve questionnaires, interviews, data-analysis, or other interactions with human subjects. "Interactions with human subjects" include interactions with a.) living individuals or b.) identifiable private information about living individual

Course-based Research (as defined by the Calvin IRB)

Students at Calvin are involved in many categories of research involving human subjects. Some students are involved in faculty research that is not connected to a specific course. Some students are enrolled in independent studies or upper-level research courses where individuals or small groups of students conduct their "own" research under the supervision of a faculty member. In these situations, the supervising faculty must list each student as a co-investigator in the research proposal.

There are also situations where many students are involved in research that faculty intend for dissemination, but the student themselves have little "ownership" of the project. For example, 20 students might complete the

Decision Flow Chart for Class Assignments and Course-based Research

Does the assignment involve interactions with living individuals or