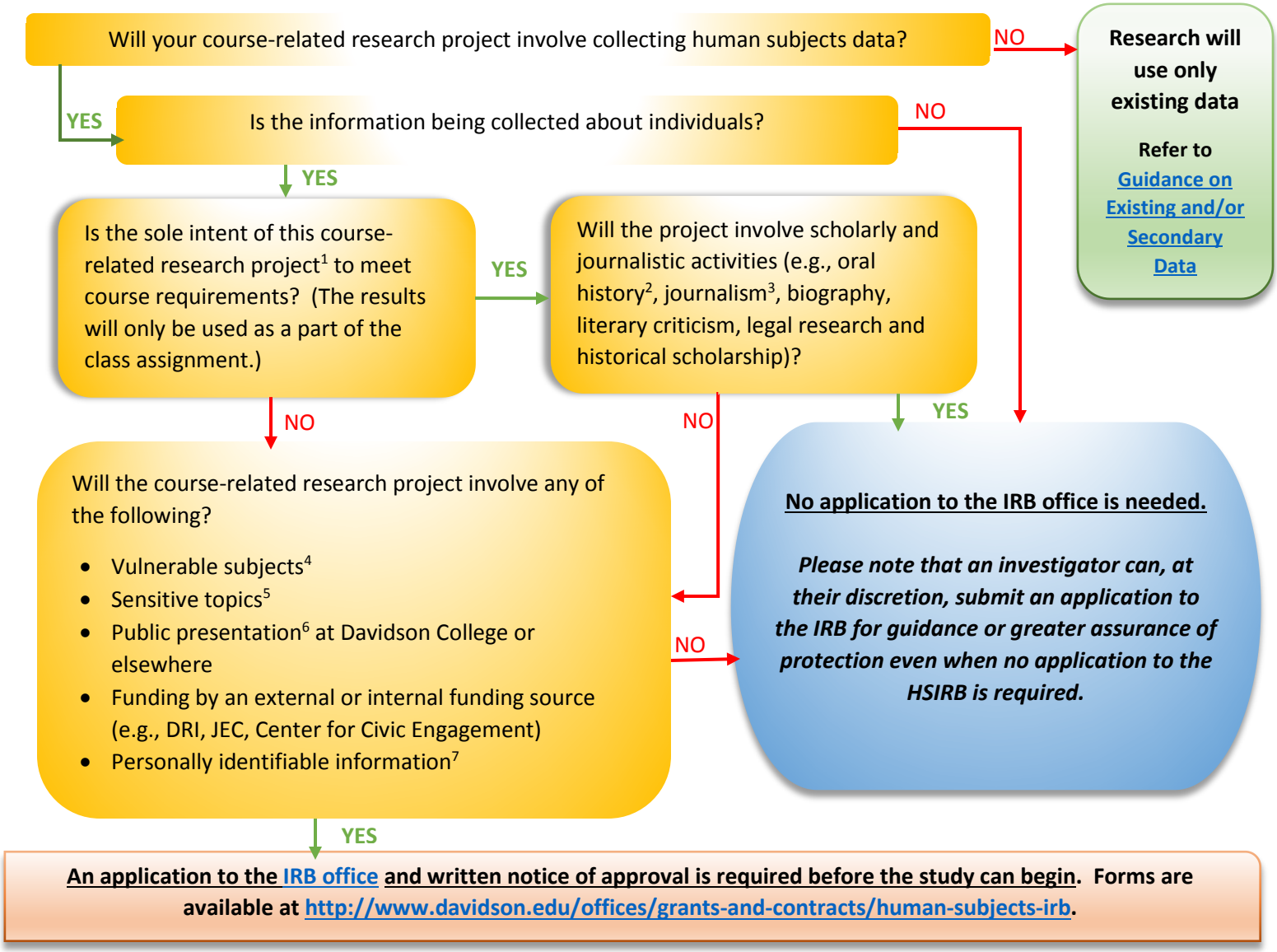
Does Your COURSE-RELATED RESEARCH PROJECT Require an Application to the Davidson College IRB Office?



[1]Systematic investigations (research) designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge are those designed to draw general conclusions, inform policy, or generalize findings beyond a single individual or an internal program (e.g., publications or presentations). However, research results do not have to be published or presented to qualify the experiment or data gathering as research. The intent to contribute to "generalizable (scholarly) knowledge" makes an experiment or data collection research, regardless of publication. Research that never is published is still research. Participants in research studies deserve protection whether or not the research is published.

[2]Oral history is a recorded conversation about the past with named individuals in which knowledge about specific events and individual lives is narrated in story form and made available to the public through deposit in archives. Biographical in nature and historical in scope, the scholarly oral history interview is rooted in particular recollections about history based on the individual perspective of the narrator.

[3]Journalism includes activities focused on the collection, verification, and reporting of information or facts on current events, trends, newsworthy issues or stories about people or events, with no intent to develop or test a hypothesis.

[4]Vulnerable subjects: Study participants who are likely to be vulnerable to coercion or undue influence, such as minors under the age of 18, prisoners, human fetuses and neonates, individuals with impaired decision-making ability, or persons whose economic status would leave them susceptible to coercion (45 CFR 46).

[5]Sensitive topics include: sexual orientation, sexually-transmitted diseases, incest, rape or date rape, sexual harassment, molestation, race relations, use of licit or illicit drugs, eating disorders, abortion, contraception or pregnancy, the subjects' own mental health (suicide, depression, compulsive behaviors), religion, illegal conduct, stressful experiences.

[6]Public Presentation: Presentation to anyone other than the professor and the student(s) enrolled in the course (e.g., Verna Miller Case Symposium, social media, publications, theses, or dissertations).

[7]Personally identifiable information (PII): Personally identifiable information is information that, when used alone or with other relevant date, can identify an individual.