GOODWIN COLLEGE POLICY

TITLE:	Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects in Research

INTRODUCTION STATEMENT:

The United States Department of Health Education and Welfare established the **Institutional Review Board** (IRB) in 1974 as a way to protect research participants from harm. An IRB is responsible for proving to the federal government that the institution provides and enforces protections for human subjects who participate in research. Originally, many colleges established IRBs on their campuses as a requirement for obtaining federally funded research; now nearly all institutions require IRB review and approval of research involving human subjects regardless of the funding source.

The IRB adheres to the guidelines explained in the United States Code of Federal Regulations Title 45 CFR, Part 36 Protection of Human Subjects; specifically, this applies to informed consent, minimizing risks, and the fair selection of subjects.

The IRB also adheres to accepted ethical practices and professional standards concerning the use of Human Subjects in Research including:

1. The American Nurses Association *Human Rights Guidelines for Nurses in Clinical and Other Areas of Research*,
2. The American Psychological Association's *Ethical Principles in the Conduct of Research for Human Participants*,
3. The American Sociological Association's *Code of Ethics*,
4. The Society of Research and Child Developments *Ethical Standards for Research with Children*, and
5. The Association for Institutional Research's *Code of Ethics*.

POLICY STATEMENT:

Goodwin College believes all researchers have an ethical and professional responsibility to protect human subjects from harm. The Institutional Review Board will review all proposals for research conducted at the college and/or by faculty, staff or students under the auspices of the college or with college resources that involve human subjects. Characteristics that trigger IRB review include any research activity that collects data systematically, involves human subjects who are identifiable, or is collected with the intention of contributing to common knowledge (i.e., shared outside the institution through presentation or publication).

- The IRB requires written assurances that the research plan protects the rights, privacy and welfare of the human subjects involved.
- The IRB has the authority to approve, require modifications or disapprove all research activities that fall within its jurisdiction.
- **IRB approval must be obtained prior to initiating any study.**

INCLUDE POLICY STATEMENT (CLICK ON BOX NEXT TO OPTION-SELECT ALL THAT APPLY):

☒ COLLEGE CATALOG

☒ FACULTY HANDBOOK

☒ STAFF HANDBOOK ☐

STUDENT HANDBOOK

EXCLUSIONS:

Some research activity may be exempt from review, and this determination is made by the IRB, not the researcher. All research proposals must be submitted to the IRB. The following activities are generally exempt from IRB review, but must still be submitted:

- Classroom activities that teach research methodologies or simulate research activities
- Activities conducted to improve the quality of teaching in a particular classroom
- Activities required for quality assessment or quality improvement, including those designed for internal, institutional evaluation or improvement. For a complete list of exempted activities, refer to the procedure Appendix B.

DEFINITIONS:

Benefit: A research benefit is considered to be something of a health-related, psychosocial, or other value to an individual research subject, or something that will contribute to the acquisition of generalizable knowledge. Money or other compensation for participation in research is not considered to be a benefit, but rather compensation for research-related inconveniences.

Human subject: *A* living individual about whom an investigator (whether a professional or a student) conducting research obtains 1) data through intervention or interaction with the individual or 2) identifiable private information. - It encompasses human subjects research conducted nationally or internationally.

- It does not include routine visitor surveys if they are not research, if the results will not be distributed externally, or if they are used solely to evaluate or review a program in order to build a better program, nor does it include research on established educational practices or curricula.

Minimal risks: Those where the probability of harm or discomfort anticipated in the proposed research are not greater, in and of themselves, than those ordinarily experienced in daily life or during the performance of routine psychological or physical examinations or tests.

Research: A systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to knowledge or understanding about a question. It includes surveys, testing, program evaluation, interviews, observation, and focus groups. Research is collecting information (data) on people and using that data in reports presented, published or reported outside of the activity.

Risk: Risk is defined as the probability of physical, psychological, social or economic harm or injury as a result of participation in the study.

CONTACTS:

Assistant Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness

HISTORY:

Originally created March 2009; rev May 2010; approved July 26, 2010, effective August 1, 2010 Reviewed and updated November 2015 by the College Committee on Assessment, OIE Review Spring 2016

EFFECTIVE DATE:	July 26, 2010
RESPONSIBLE OFFICE:	Institutional Effectiveness
REVIEW DATE:	April 2016

APPENDIX: N/A