

TTUHSC EI PASO

Regulatory Lite



A hint of research compliance tips for your everyday life

Research recruitment activities at the School of Medicine

Today we're talking about recruiting students in the School of Medicine (SOM). While it is okay to recruit students onto IRB approved research studies, there are certain rules that we have to follow in order to ensure that no one feels pressured into participating, and to make sure that we've met all the necessary requirements.

First, our IRB application must show that we plan to recruit students onto our research, as well as the justification and precautions that will be taken when doing so. There is a section on the application that specifically includes students, as well as other vulnerable populations.

Second, we need to mention how we plan to recruit students. Maybe we're hoping to introduce the research study during class, post notices in the SOM, or possibly send out an email blast, all in an effort to get the information out, but we must ensure that all proposed methods fall under the guidelines of the SOM. However you plan to recruit, really consider whether or not that method is allowable per the SOM, will be the best way to enroll students onto a study, and make sure that you get IRB approval for your recruitment method and materials prior to its implementation.

Third, recruitment activities for a research study should not take place during dedicated class time unless this has been approved through the SOM. For instance, it may be acceptable to perform recruitment during class if the class itself is part of the study design (e.g., researcher would like to collect survey data on how students felt about a particular learning activity).

Remember that in all cases, you will need to obtain permission from the SOM (Assistant Dean) prior to recruitment or implementing any research activities.

If you have any questions about this or anything else, you can also submit them to the [Research Compliance Unit](#).