



Research Ethics Board

Standard Operating Procedure

Document Number	REB.SOP.504
Title	Scholarly Review
Effective Date	February 28, 2022
Next Review	2027
Next Administrative Review	2025

1. Purpose

This standard operating procedure (SOP) describes the procedures for the completion of research with the Research Ethics Board (REB).

2. Definitions

See the MSVU **REB Glossary of Terms (REB.INFO.001)**

3. Scope

This SOP pertains to REBs that review human participant research in compliance with applicable policies and guidelines.

4. Responsibilities

All REB members and REB Office Personnel are responsible for ensuring that the requirements of this SOP are met.

5. Procedures and/or Specific Policies

- 5.1. Article 2.7 of the TCPS states that as “part of research ethics review, the REB shall review the ethical implications of the methods and design of the research.”
- 5.2. The REB, when evaluating a research project, will review the ethical acceptability and, where appropriate, relevant disciplinary scholarly standards.
- 5.3. Scholarly review varies amongst disciplines and fields, including the stage at which scholarly review occurs.
 - 5.3.1. The extent of the scholarly review that is required for biomedical research that does not involve more than minimal risk will vary according to the research being carried out.
 - 5.3.2. Research in the arts, humanities and the social sciences that poses, at most, minimal risk shall not normally be required by the REB to be peer reviewed.
- 5.4. The UREB shall not duplicate previous professional peer-review assessments unless there is a good and defined reason to do so.
- 5.5. Researchers have a role to play in demonstrating to their REB whether, when and how appropriate scholarly review has been or will be undertaken for their research.
 - 5.5.1. The REB may request that the researcher provide them with the full

documentation of scholarly reviews already completed.

- 5.6. Where scholarly review is required,
 - 5.6.1. the REB will consider what scholarly review has already been applied to a particular research project;
 - 5.6.2. the REB shall refer the file to the Committee on Research and Publications for their review and comment if scholarly review as indicated by the relevant disciplinary tradition has not yet been done.
- 5.7. The REB shall not be driven by factors such as personal biases or preferences, and shall not reject proposals because they are controversial, challenge mainstream thought, or offend powerful or vocal interest groups.

6. References

See References listed (if applicable)

7. Related Documents

7.1. REB.FORM.009 – Scholarly Review

8. Acknowledgements

Excerpts modified from the TCPS [Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans – TCPS 2 \(2018\) – Chapter 2: Scope and Approach \(ethics.gc.ca\)](#), retrieved February 2022

9. SOP History

SOP Number	Key Changes	Effective Date
REB.SOP.504	Formerly SOP 110 (now SOP.504); New SOP #, minor revisions for clarity and modified to fit new SOP template	March 2022
REB.SOP.110	Original Version	April 2012