



Principal Investigator Eligibility

Investigators who can conduct a research study overseen by the UA IRB

Serving in the role of Principal Investigator (PI) on a human research project is a privilege. This role carries with it important responsibilities. The oversight responsibility of the Principal Investigator is implicit in the University's review and approval of a project, therefore the University must be in a position of authority over the Principal Investigator's actions. An individual's participation in University of Arizona research is dependent upon that individual's relationship with the institution.

The PI is the individual bearing ultimate responsibility for the design, execution, and management of human research. This includes compliance with government, sponsor, and university policies and regulations, fiscal stewardship of sponsored funds, and all administrative requirements of the project. A Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) bears the same rights and responsibilities for the research study as the PI.

The Office of Research, Discovery & Innovation has set out guidelines that must be met for the consideration of granting status as a Principal Investigator to any individual. Please review these guidelines for determining PI eligibility: <http://rgw.arizona.edu/administration/getting-started/Principal-Investigator-Eligibility>.

Student or Residents Who Can Serve as a PI

University of Arizona students/residents who act as PIs are held to the same ethical and regulatory standards as faculty PIs. They are expected to follow all UA policies and processes regarding Human Research.

It is at the College and/or Department's discretion whether a student or resident can serve as a PI. If a student (whether undergraduate or graduate) or a resident is serving as the PI, then a UA advisor must be listed on the IRB protocol, have current human subject training, and attest on the IRB application that they will mentor and oversee the student. The advisor does not need to be the student's academic advisor or dissertation/thesis committee member, but must still have an academic appointment with the University of Arizona. Advisors must sign off on the Application for Human Research and will be copied on all correspondence regarding the student's Human Research project.

When an Investigator Can No Longer Serve as PI

If it is foreseen that the PI will be leaving the University of Arizona, or unable to serve as PI for a length of time, measures should be taken to transfer oversight of the project to another investigator. Please review the HSPP guidance on Amending Approved Research.

If a PI leaves the University of Arizona or ceases serving as a PI without receiving IRB approval to transfer oversight to another investigator, the project will be administratively closed.

To ensure continuity of research activities, the PI should communicate with their new institution as soon as possible regarding transfer of studies. The UA HSPP will work with the PI and the new institution to get the appropriate agreements signed.