

**GRAYS HARBOR COLLEGE**  
**Operational Policy**

It is the policy of Grays Harbor College to act in an ethically responsible manner when conducting research involving human subjects. The College adheres to the requirements and basic principles regarding human subject research provided in the [\*Belmont Report\*](#), written by the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research in 1979. These principles include: respect for persons, autonomy, beneficence, and justice.

**Basic Principles:** The basic principles adhered to by the College are drawn from the [\*Belmont Report\*](#), written by the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research in 1979.

- a. **Respect for Persons:** Individuals should be treated as autonomous agents. That is, individuals should be treated as capable of deliberation about personal goals and of acting under the direction of such deliberation. To respect autonomy is to give weight to an individual person's considered opinions and choices while refraining from obstructing their actions unless they are clearly detrimental to others. To show lack of respect for an autonomous agent is to repudiate that person's considered judgments, to deny an individual the freedom to act on those considered judgments, or to withhold information necessary to make a considered judgment, when there are no compelling reasons to do so.
- b. **Autonomy:** The investigator has an obligation to each participant to treat them as a person fully capable of making an informed decision regarding his or her participation in the research. Each participant must be given a full disclosure of the nature of the study, including any risks or benefits. To ensure the autonomy of the participant, the College requires a signed informed consent form from each participant in the study unless the study meets the exception criteria outlined in the sections on "consent" (i.e., Specific Requirements, subsection (e) - "Consent") or "exemptions".
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