Research ethics clearance is often a requirement for publication in reputable, peer-reviewed journals. In many disciplines, the absence of research ethics clearance may make it difficult to publish papers.

In addition, many grant-giving agencies require proponents to obtain ethical clearance before data-gathering activities commence. In some cases, the release of funding may also be dependent on obtaining ethics clearance.

It’s important to note that there are no mechanisms that will allow for retroactive clearance of research projects.

The research ethics review committee in DLSU is called the University Research Ethics Committee (U-REC), and this committee oversees Research Ethics Review Panels (RERPs) that are usually made up of:

- At least three scientific members who have been trained in research ethics review and have expertise regarding the type of research being reviewed;
- At least one scientific member who is not affiliated with the institution that established the committee or the funding agency of the project; and
- At least one lay member who is a non-scientist / not engaged in research.

There are four types of reviews (1) Exempted from Review, (2) Expedited Review, (3) Full Review, and (4) Continuing Review. The table below presents the different types of reviews and describes the proposals that would qualify for each type.

Exempted	Proposals are usually exempted from review when they:[1] (1) do not pose more than minimal risk to study participants, (2) are categorized under institutional quality assurance, evaluation of public service programs, public health surveillance, educational evaluation activities, and consumer acceptability tests, and (3) rely exclusively on information that is publicly available and therefore will not involve any interaction between the researcher and the individuals who provided the data. In addition, proposals that will utilize survey procedures, interview procedures, or observation of public behavior (including visual or audio recordings) may also be exempted from review when they meet the following criteria: (1) There will be no disclosure of the participants' responses outside the research which could reasonably place participants at risk of criminal liability or be damaging to their reputation, employability, or financial standing. (2) Information obtained from participants are recorded in a way where the identity of the participants cannot be directly

Informed consent is a process that provides individuals the opportunity to willingly participate in research. It is not just a form appended to a research proposal. It's a fully articulated process that details informed consent will be obtained, informed consent will be obtained, and will be facilitating the process.

In general, the following requirements are recommended when obtaining informed consent:[3]

1. Consent must be obtained by the investigator or a designated individual.
2. Consent must be obtained any research-related procedures are performed on the participant.
3. Consent must be given voluntarily. The participant or their legal representative must not be forced to participate or, if they wish to withdraw, to continue to participate.

For ICFs, at the minimum, research ethics committees check for the following components:

- Research Statement
- Description of participants' involvement
- Statement of risks
- Statement of benefits
- Description of confidentiality procedures
- Information regarding compensation
- Statement of voluntary participation and right to withdrawal
- Information regarding contact persons

Apart from these components, committees also check the language used in the ICF. Information should be presented in non-technical language and in a manner that is easily understood by their prospective participants.

Having an ICF with all of these components is not enough. Researchers need to ensure voluntary consent of participants by describing the informed consent process in their protocol.

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[1] Philippine Health Research Ethics Board. (2022b). . Philippine Council for Health Research and Development. https://ethics.healthresearch.ph/index.php/phoca-downloads/category/4-neg?download=154:national-ethical-guidelines-for-research-involving-human-participants-2022

[2] Philippine Health Research Ethics Board. (2022b). . Philippine Council for Health Research and Development. https://ethics.healthresearch.ph/index.php/phoca-downloads/category/4-neg?download=154:national-ethical-guidelines-for-research-involving-human-participants-2022

[3] Nijhawan, L. P., Janodia, M., Muddukrishna, Carch ў Ёe

Depending on the stage of the review process, reviews are conducted by the University Research Ethics Committee (UREC) and the Research Ethics Review Panels (RERP).

The University Research Ethics Committee (U-REC) is composed of:

- A Chairperson
- A Vice-chairperson
- A Member Secretary
- Committee members

The RERP is a multidisciplinary panel composed of:

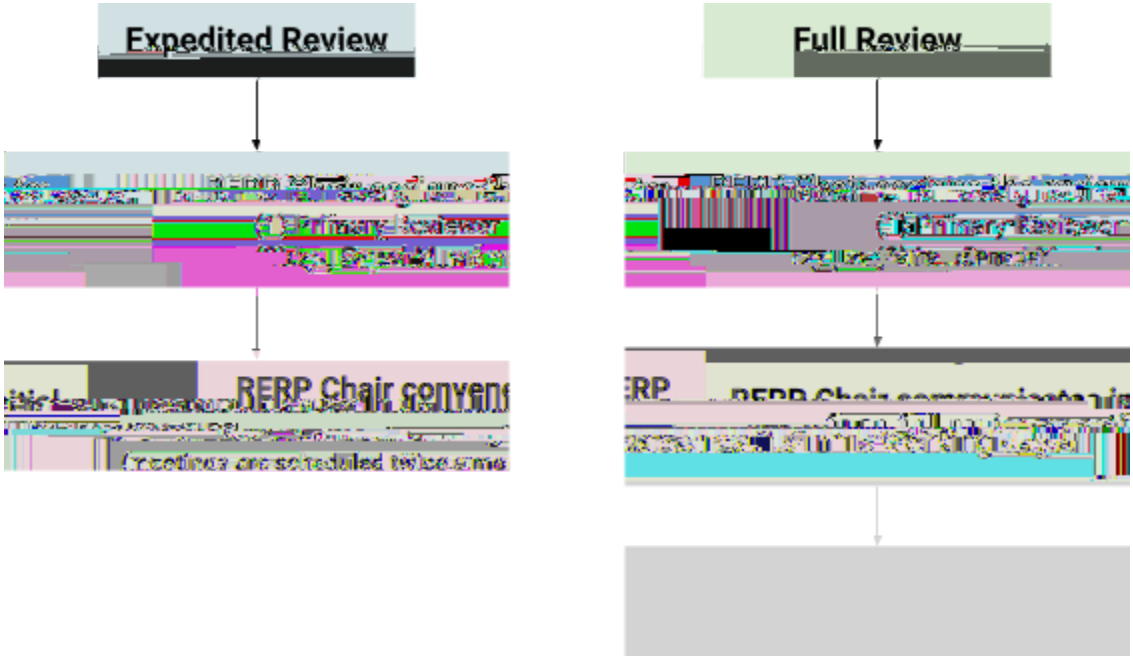
- The RERP Chair Designate
- RERP members
- One lay member
- One non-affiliated scientific member

There are multiple RERPs working under the supervision

This fist stage of the ethics review process takes 7 working days after the proponent makes a complete submission. When the RERC categorizes a submission as expedited or full review, the U-REC will assign it to the appropriate RERP.

If the submission is exempted from the review process it will proceed to the second stage of the ethics review process which will be conducted by the RERP.

If a research does not pose more than minimal risk, it will undergo an . However, if a research poses more than minimal risk, it will undergo a .



After receiving the initial review status, proponents will have the results of the expedited review in 15 working days and the results of a full review in 30 working days.

If the expedited or full review results include recommended revisions prior to approval, proponents are given 7 working days to respond to the committee's recommendations. Once the proponent submits their revisions/response, the RERP will review the submission and will respond within 7 working days.