While Barton is historically a teaching, rather than a research institution, science faculty have begun incorporating student research opportunities into the curriculum, and the number of faculty and staff conducting research related to an advanced degree has increased. Therefore, the new Director of Institutional Effectiveness has designated an Institutional Research Board (IRB) to provide oversight for conducting research on campus, whether for internal or external purposes. For example, employees actively engaged in research for their advanced degree must seek IRB approval when collecting data at Barton. This same statement is true when an external researcher seeks to use Barton's data.

Barton has very few human subject IRB requests. Currently, research projects conducted by faculty, staff, or students that involve human or animal subjects operate under the authority of another Institutional Review Board (sanctioned by another college or research organization). For example, a faculty member working on a doctoral dissertation and conducting research at the College would seek IRB approval from the institution sponsoring the doctoral program. The researcher will also seek permission from the Barton Vice President of Instruction.

At this time, the Director is developing the IRB charter, processes, and accompanying website. When those tasks are complete, the Barton IRB will assume all responsibility for the review of research requests.

The following information serves as a framework for the IRB policy and procedure. The IRB follows the guidelines for Human Subjects Research provided by the [Department of Health and Human Services (HHS 45 CFR 46)](https://docs.bartonccc.edu/accreditation/2022%20CRITERION%202/2.E%20EVIDENCE%20UPLOADED/2.E.1/2.E.1%20IE_HHS%20Office%20for%20Human%20Research%20Protections.pdf) to ensure the IRB uses ethical principles for reviewing all IRB requests.

* IRB Members include
  + Facilitator – Director of Institutional Effectiveness
  + Member – Psychology Instructor or Counselor
  + Member – Faculty Council Chair
  + Member – Science Instructor
  + Vice President of Administration – College Risk Assessment
  + At Large Member
* Proposed Charter: The Institutional Review Board (IRB) ensures the ethical treatment, welfare, rights, and privacy of research participants in studies conducted by Barton’s faculty, staff, or students. The IRB reviews applications and grants permission to conduct research that satisfies ethical standards. Specifically, researchers must inform participants about the purpose of the research, their right to withdraw once participating has begun, reasonably foreseeable factors, limits of confidentiality, and whom to contact for questions regarding the research. Principal Investigators must complete selected HHS training videos to ensure integrity is maintained in the research process.

The Barton Business Office and Grants Office provide fiscal accountability for grant-funded projects that include a basic or applied research component and necessitate fiscal management, budgeting, compliance, and reporting requirements.