**Criteria for a Full Board Review**

Research that involves (a) more than minimal risk, or (b) involves vulnerable populations or (c) includes sensitive topics requires full board review. Examples of vulnerable populations and sensitive topics are listed below. (Decision Trees are available at the ENC IRB webpage.)

**A. Vulnerable Populations -** All research that involves fetuses, pregnant women, prisoners, or groups who may have diminished capacity to provide consent or who may be high risk must be provided full review.

See § 45 CFR 46.201 - 207, pregnant women;

46.300 - 306, prisoners;

46.401 - 409, children and minors (except as included under exempt and expedited categories)

**B. Sensitive Topics** - Any research protocol that involves solicitation of information from human subjects that could reasonably cause harm to the participant if the data were not kept confidential. Causing embarrassment is the minimum threshold for determining whether research harm is foreseeable and thus sensitive (See information box below for examples of some sensitive topics).

**C. Minimal Risk -**The probability and magnitude of harm or discomfort anticipated in the research are not greater in and of themselves than those ordinarily encountered in daily life or during the performance of routine physical or psychological examinations or tests (45 CFR 46).

**Examples of Sensitive Topics that May Require Full Board Review**

1. Sexual orientation, attitudes, preferences, or practices
2. Illegal or punishable conduct, including use of alcohol, drugs, or other addictive products
3. Information that could damage an individual’s financial standing, employability, or reputation
4. Information (usually in medical records) that could lead to social stigmatization or discrimination
5. Psychological well-being or mental health, including physical or mental abuse
6. Incest, rape, date rape, or sexual molestation
7. Genetic information
8. Religious orientation or views – Religion is just one example of a sensitive topic. As with all sensitive topics, the broader principle is whether or not there is a potential for harm if the data were revealed. Identifying religious orientation on a research project would not typically be considered a sensitive topic at Eastern Nazarene College. However, it should be noted that there are many possible scenarios where religious research could be potentially harmful to the participant if confidential data were revealed.
9. Veteran or wartime experiences
10. Topics relevant to diversity and possible discrimination such as race/ethnicity, age, disability, gender and socio-economic status.
11. Immigration status

Please note: The sensitive subjects listed above are examples and not an exclusive list.