

## 25.6 University of Virginia Students and Employees as Subjects

When University of Virginia students and/or employees are being recruited as potential subjects, investigators must ensure that there are additional safeguards for these subjects. The voluntary nature of their participation must be primary and without undue influence on their decision. Investigators must emphasize to subjects that neither their academic status or grades, or their employment, will be affected by their participation decision.

To minimize coercion, investigators should avoid enrolling, whenever possible, students currently enrolled in a course that they teach, students or employees that they supervise in procedures which are neither therapeutic nor diagnostic. In these latter situations, investigators should solicit subjects through means such as bulletin board notices, flyers, advertisements in newspapers, and announcements in classes or laboratories other than their own. When entering a classroom to recruit students and conduct research, e.g., administer a survey, investigators must do so at the end of the class period to allow non-participating students the option of leaving the classroom, thereby alleviating pressure to participate.

The University of Virginia allows for the creation of participant pools. Participant pools are a convenient way for researchers to access individuals (generally students) who are ready to participate in research. Student participant are generally organized around a particular discipline and help to facilitate students' access to research as part of their educational experience. It is acceptable to offer course credit for participating, but researchers are required to offer other opportunities to earn equivalent course credit. Researchers accessing students through a participant pools should offer educational insight to the student participating in their research.