



POLK STATE COLLEGE

Acknowledgment of Ethical Concerns for Researchers or Participant Observers

In undertaking this research project, I commit myself to the following standards:

- Each researcher who is involved in conducting research is responsible for compliance with the American Psychological Association's ethical code of conduct for research and/or the American Sociological and American Anthropological Associations ethical guides to researchers. The researcher is ultimately responsible for meeting guidelines and is required to inform the IRB chair promptly of any potential ethical concerns or violations.
- Ethical practice requires the researcher to inform each participant of all features of the research that might influence willingness to participate and to explain all other aspects of the research about which the participant inquires.
- Ethical research practice requires the researcher to respect each participant's freedom to decline to participate in research or discontinue participation at any time for any reason without penalty.
- Ethically acceptable research begins with the establishment of a clear and fair agreement between the researcher and research participant that clarifies the expectations of each. The researcher has the obligation to honor all promises and commitments included in that agreement.
- The ethical researcher protects participants from physical and mental discomfort, harm, and danger. All risk to the participant must be minimized and explained to the participant before she/he agrees to participate.
- After the data are collected, the researcher must provide the participant with an explanation of the study (debriefing) and remove any misconceptions that may have arisen.
- Where research procedures may have undesirable effects on participants, the researcher in collaboration with the faculty advisor must remove or correct these effects, including any long-term aftereffects.
- All information obtained about participants is confidential. When the possibility exists that others may obtain this information, ethical research requires you to inform participants of this before they give their consent to participate, and that you give an explanation of what steps are being taken to protect confidentiality. All data must be handled, stored, and discarded in a manner that insures the confidentiality of each participant.
- I have read and accepted Polk State College's respective forms and procedures.

Name(s) of researcher(s): _____

Signature(s): _____

Date: _____