	IRB SOP: Compensating Research Participants		
	NUMBER	APPROVED BY	EFFECTIVE DATE
	HSR-380	Miranda van Tilburg, PhD IRB Chair, IRB Office Campbell University	6/22/2020

Applies to CU faculty, faculty advisors, students and staff conducting or overseeing human subjects research.

Purpose

Principal Investigators may choose to provide compensation to subjects for the time, effort or inconvenience associated with participating in their project. Compensation is not a requirement for a project and should be evaluated by both the Investigator and IRB to determine if appropriate for each specific project and subject population.

Background

The following compensation methods may be permitted and compensation should be distributed in accordance with the appropriate Campbell University policy (see IRB website for guidance):

- Monetary compensation. This includes check, cash, gift certificates, and prepaid debit cards;
- Gift items such as bags, blankets, pens, coolers, calendars, magnets, etc.;
- Drawings;
- Academic or extra credit for college students.

NOTE: Compensation for participation is not a benefit and should not be included in the benefit section of the *Research Plan*. Compensation is not the same as reimbursement for project costs, such as but not limited to, parking costs, travel costs, etc.


Definitions

None

Principal Investigator Responsibilities and Procedure

The Principal Investigator (PI) must provide participant compensation details in the appropriate section of the *New Protocol Submission Form*. Such as, but not limited to:

- The amount and nature of the compensation (e.g., cash, gift card, course credit, etc.);
- Explain how and when compensation will be provided, including payment schedules, whether or not compensation will be reduced if the participant does not complete all activities in the project, and how any proration will occur;
- Explain how the methods and amounts of compensation is appropriate for the participant population and research activities (based on time commitment, number of project visits, travel expenses, age of participant population, etc.).
- If academic or extra credit for students is being given, an explanation of how students not participating will be given extra credit.

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The IRB reviews and evaluates all compensation plans proposed on a project by project basis. In their review the IRB will evaluate the following components:

- If compensation has been pro-rated on a per project visit basis;
- If there is a "completion bonus" offered for the final visit, completion bonuses are often an amount which totals greater than 40% of the total compensation for the project;
- If the total compensation being offered in the project to subjects is not unduly influential.
- If the compensation is appropriate and equitable for the target population.

References

45 CFR 46

IRB Guidance: Compensation in Human Subjects Research