

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

The process for reviewing all research and research training activities involving animals is carried out by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). The IACUC is authorized to request modifications, approve, withhold approval, or suspend animal research and teaching projects.

All projects (with or without internal or external funding) which involve the use of animals must undergo IACUC review and receive approval prior to initiation. Investigators are required to submit a completed Animal Use Protocol Form to the IACUC for review by the Committee.

The Committee is comprised of scientific, affiliated members of Western Illinois University, as well as non-scientific and non-affiliated members, to ensure a balance of professional expertise and community perspective. All committee members participate in the review process. IACUC policies and procedures are designed to ensure that the review is conducted with thoroughness, consistency and objectivity in a manner allowing each member to exercise independent judgment. Once approved, each protocol is reviewed at least annually or more frequently if deemed appropriate or necessary by the IACUC and if active long enough, a renewal of ongoing projects is required every three years.

In addition to reviewing specific research projects, the IACUC also carries out other federally mandated functions such as:

- reviewing and reporting on the overall animal program,
- inspection and evaluation of all of the animal facilities,
- investigation of legitimate concerns involving the care and use of animals at the institution and
- recommendations to the Institutional Official, the Provost and Academic Vice President, regarding any aspect of the research, animal program, facilities or personnel training.

Western Illinois University has an Assurance on file with the Office for Protection from Research Risks in accordance with the Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, for institutions which have research sponsored by the PHS (Assurance No. A3374-01). The Committee is governed by the USDA Animal Welfare Act as documented in the Code of Federal Regulation Title 9, Subchapter A Parts 1, 2 and 3. The IACUC applies the standards set forth in the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

Mandatory Training for all Individuals Engaged in Research with Animals:

Before you can engage in research that involves animals at Western Illinois University you must complete the mandatory Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) modules. Please see the following document for directions: [CITI Instructions for Research with Animals](#).

WIU IACUC Resources:

[Research with Animals Protocol Review Form](#) (doc)

[Laboratory Animal Care Facility Standard Operating Procedures](#) (pdf)

If you have any questions about the care and use of animals in research, please contact:

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