Human Subjects Exemption Request
Department of Sociology & Anthropology
Muhlenberg College

Please complete each section and submit 2 copies to the Department of Sociology & Anthropology

Request for Exemption from further IRB Review (please check all that apply):

- The research will involve the observation of public behavior or will involve survey or interview procedures, and, of the following conditions, numbers 1a or 1b, 2, and 3 will apply (you must check 3 boxes):
  - 1a. Data will not be recorded in a manner enabling the identification of participants; or
  - 1b. Data will be recorded in a manner enabling the identification of participants, but the participant’s responses, if they were to become known outside the research, could not reasonably place the participant at risk of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to the participants’ financial standing or employability.
  - 2. The research will not deal with sensitive aspects of the participant’s behavior, such as illegal conduct, drug or alcohol use, sexual behavior, etc.
  - 3. The research will not deal with a vulnerable participant population, such as children, economically or educationally disadvantaged participants, mentally or physically challenged participants, prisoners, or participants who are ill.

- The research will be conducted in established or commonly accepted educational settings involving normal educational practices (e.g., research on curricular changes, teaching styles).

- The research will involve the use of educational tests, and the information taken from these sources will be recorded in such a manner that the participants cannot be identified either directly or indirectly.

- The research will involve survey or interview procedures, and the respondents are elected or public officials or candidates for public office.

- The research will involve the collection or study of existing data, documents, records, pathological specimens, or diagnostic specimens. These will be from sources that are publicly available, and the information in them will be recorded by the investigator in such a manner that participants cannot be identified directly or indirectly.

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Research and demonstration projects which are conducted by or subject to the approval of department or agency heads, and which are designed to study, evaluate, or otherwise examine: (i) Public benefit or service programs; (ii) procedures for obtaining benefits or services under those programs; (iii) possible changes in or alternatives to those programs or procedures; or (iv) possible changes in methods or levels of payment for benefits or services under those programs.

Taste and food quality evaluation and consumer acceptance studies, (i) if wholesome foods without additives are consumed or (ii) if a food is consumed that contains a food ingredient at or below the level and for a use found to be safe, or agricultural chemical or environmental contaminant at or below the level found to be safe, by the Food and Drug Administration or approved by the Environmental Protection Agency or the Food Safety and Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Please provide a description of your project below (no more than one page). Describe the project’s goals, design, major hypotheses or research questions, procedures, and any experimental procedures or manipulations to be used. You may also include any other information that may be helpful to the IRB in response to your request for exemption from further IRB review: