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Scholarship and Research Update, August 12, 2020

University of Northern Iowa

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University of Northern Iowa

Scholarship and Research Update

Dear UNI Community,

The Forward Together steering committee has approved the following guidance for scholarship this fall, based on recommendations from the Research and Scholarship subcommittee with consultation from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) and the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (RSP).

At minimum, all UNI protocols and guidance will be followed even when the project activity is taking place off-campus. This email contains highlighted guidance. All guidance and updates are at the [RSP website](#).

Travel and Field Work

- As of June 18, 2020, all university-sponsored in state and out of state travel is permitted with proper approvals. As a reminder, all grant/contract related travel is university-sponsored travel.
- It is the responsibility of the traveler to know and follow any travel restrictions at their destination.
- Only the minimum number of people will travel to the destination.
- Reduce the rider and room capacity during transportation and lodging.
- Prepare contingency plans in case someone develops symptoms of or is exposed to COVID-19 while traveling.

Face-to-face (F2F) Data Collection & IRB

Scholars will continue remote/virtual data collection when possible; however, starting **Monday, August 3, 2020**, F2F is permissible with IRB approval. Send all inquiries to the Chair of the IRB.

Existing Protocols

- If you had a protocol approved by the IRB prior to March 13th and you would like to resume F2F data collection, please consult the [Resuming F2F Research Flow Chart](#) (PDF) for more information.
- Resuming F2F data collection or changing to remote/virtual data collection is a **study modification** and needs IRB approval before implementation.
- If you intend to resume an existing study that still includes F2F interaction of any kind, please submit the COVID Addendum for Existing Research.

New Protocols

- All new protocols will use remote/virtual recruitment and data collection when possible.
- New applications with F2F data collection will include additional information pertaining to risk and mitigation of risk due to COVID-19. Specific guidance is on the RSP website.
- If you intend to conduct a new study that includes F2F interaction of any kind, please submit the COVID-19 addendum to the standard application.
- High-risk protocols are generally restricted until further notice.

Research Laboratories, Studios and Performance Spaces

This guidance applies primarily to 220, 225, 250 and 255 spaces, but may also apply to 210 and 215 spaces on campus. Refer to [room/space definitions](#) for more information.

- Researchers and artists will do remote work, as much as possible and will postpone high exposure risk studies, projects, and tasks until further notice.
- Each individual lab/studio/performance space will document their operations and procedures in response to COVID-19.
- Refer to the [Operational Guidelines - Research Labs and Studios](#) (DOC) document for specific guidance.

Grants and Contracts

- All project activities that take place under an externally funded project must first and foremost follow the University's rules, policies, and protocols.
- PPE are allowable with sponsored project funds if the PPE is budgeted in the project. If the PPE is not in the budget, then a non-General Fund account, such as a PI or Departmental incentive fund account, must be used.
- Specific guidance is on the [RSP website](#).

As we approach the start of the fall semester, please continue to monitor your email for updates and check the [Forward Together](#) website often. Emails such as this one will be archived on the [Campus Updates](#) section of the website for future reference.

Forward Together Steering Committee