Do I Need SRC Pre-Approval? What Forms Do I Need?

This is not a complete list of examples for each type of project. Check www.ocsef.org for complete Rules and contact OCSEF at info@ocsef.org.

Does your project involve **Human Participants?**
- Survey/questionnaire (online or in-person)
- Completing a task/activity or being tested
- Testing or using your device by others
- Observing and interacting with humans
- Human dataset with identifiable information

YES
- **NEED Form 3 & Form 4**
- **NEED Informed Consent Template**
- **NEED Research Plan**

NO

Does your project involve **Vertebrate Animals?**
- Mammals, fish, birds, reptiles, amphibians, or cephalopods
- Testing or observation of animals in nature or a controlled setting

YES

Where are you conducting your project?

Regulated Research
- **NEED Form 5B**

School/Home/Field
- **NEED Form 5A**

NO

Does your project involve **Biological Hazards?**
- Bacteria, viruses, yeast, mold, fungi, viroids, rickettsia, cyanobacteria, or parasites
- Tissues, cell cultures, cell lines
- Samples from a human or animal body (teeth, hair, bone, saliva, blood, swabs)
- Samples from the environment (water, soil)
- DNA, RNA, or recombinant DNA

YES
- **NEED Form 6A**

NO

Does your project involve **Human or Animal Tissue?**
- Fresh/frozen tissue sample
- Fresh organ or other body part
- Blood or body fluids
- Primary cell/tissue cultures
- Human or primate established cell lines

YES
- **Also NEED Form 6B**

NO

Does your project involve **Potentially Hazardous Chemicals, Materials, Devices, or Activities?** (some examples)
- Household cleaning agents, solvents, acids, bases, chemicals, ferrofluid, gases, or biofuel
- 3D printers, lasers, UV light, radiation, magnets, charcoal, rockets, flammable material, or testing pH
- Oven/stove, saw/drill, soldering, generator, circuits, motor, electricity, or batteries
- Prescription drugs, tobacco, explosives, or pyrophoric chemicals

Note: **Review the Safety Data Sheets**

YES
- **NEED Form 3**

NEEDS SRC PRE-APPROVAL:
- **Begins Sept 1, 2026**
- Ends Nov 2, 2026
- Forms: ocsef.org/resources
- Approval required before you start your project

If "NO" for ALL questions:
- **NO** Pre-Approval needed
- Registration
  - Begins Sept 1, 2026
  - Ends Feb 1, 2027

Projects registered AFTER the November 2nd deadline, for which SRC determines needed Pre-Approval, will not be approved by SRC.

If in doubt, complete the form(s) and submit for Pre-Approval!

Revised for 2027 OCSEF