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graph TD
    Start([Start Here]) --> Q1{Are you conducting the activity as a function of your employment or education at Cal Poly?}
    Q1 -- YES --> Q2{Is the activity a systematic investigation, including research development, testing, and evaluation? Does it attempt to answer research questions (hypothesis/es)? Is it methodical? Does it collect data in an organized way? Will the data be analyzed and conclusions drawn?}
    Q1 -- NO --> Q3{Does your activity collect data from Cal Poly employees or students as subjects?}
    Q2 -- YES --> Q4{Is the investigation designed to contribute to generalizable knowledge? Design refers to the purpose of the investigation. If the purpose is to archive results for further research, compare results to other assessments, or draw conclusions to generalizable knowledge, the use of exploratory or qualitative data collection will be considered research according to the Federal definition. Some investigations are intended to train students (classroom projects) or not designed to produce generalizable knowledge and are not considered research. At Cal Poly, master's theses and senior projects are considered research and should be reviewed; however, there are some exceptions. Generalizable knowledge means conclusions, facts, or principles derived from particulars (individual subjects, medical records, etc.) that are applicable to or affect a whole category (members of a class, kind, or group, a field of knowledge, etc.) and enhance scientific or academic understanding. Is the primary goal of the activity to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge? Is a major goal of the activity to learn something to benefit people other than the research subjects? Is the goal of the activity to do more than improve the performance of an institutional practice in relationship to an established standard?}
    Q2 -- NO --> End1[Activity is not research and IRB review is not needed.]
    Q3 -- YES --> Q4
    Q3 -- NO --> End2[Activity does not require review by Cal Poly IRB.]
    Q4 -- YES --> End3[Activity is research.]
    Q4 -- NO --> End1
    End3 --> Q5{Does it involve obtaining information or biospecimens from or about living human subjects?}
    Q5 -- YES --> Q6{Does the research involve interaction or intervention with the human subjects, and will the research use, study, or analyze the information or biospecimens?}
    Q5 -- NO --> End4[Activity is not research involving human subjects and IRB review is not needed.]
    Q6 -- YES --> Q7{Does the research obtain, use, study, analyze, or generate identifiable information or biospecimens? Is the identity of the subject known, or may readily be ascertained, by the investigator or associated with the information or biospecimens?}
    Q6 -- NO --> End4
    Q7 -- YES --> Q8{Is the information private? Private means behavior that occurs in a context in which an individual can reasonably expect that no observation or recording is taking place, and information that has been provided for specific purposes by an individual and that the individual can reasonably expect will not be made public.}
    Q7 -- NO --> End4
    Q8 -- YES --> End5[Activity is research involving human subjects. Please submit the project to the Cal Poly IRB for review.]
    Q8 -- NO --> End4
    End1 --> End6[Other Federal, State, local laws and/or regulations may apply.]
    End2 --> End6
    End3 --> End6
    End4 --> End6
    End5 --> End6
  
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**Start Here**

**Are you conducting the activity as a function of your employment or education at Cal Poly?**

YES → **Is the activity a systematic investigation, including research development, testing, and evaluation?** *Does it attempt to answer research questions (hypothesis/es)? Is it methodical? Does it collect data in an organized way? Will the data be analyzed and conclusions drawn?*

NO → **Does your activity collect data from Cal Poly employees or students as subjects?**

YES → **Is the investigation designed to contribute to generalizable knowledge?** *Design refers to the purpose of the investigation. If the purpose is to archive results for further research, compare results to other assessments, or draw conclusions to generalizable knowledge, the use of exploratory or qualitative data collection will be considered research according to the Federal definition. Some investigations are intended to train students (classroom projects) or not designed to produce generalizable knowledge and are not considered research. At Cal Poly, master's theses and senior projects are considered research and should be reviewed; however, there are some exceptions. Generalizable knowledge means conclusions, facts, or principles derived from particulars (individual subjects, medical records, etc.) that are applicable to or affect a whole category (members of a class, kind, or group, a field of knowledge, etc.) and enhance scientific or academic understanding. Is the primary goal of the activity to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge? Is a major goal of the activity to learn something to benefit people other than the research subjects? Is the goal of the activity to do more than improve the performance of an institutional practice in relationship to an established standard?*

NO → **Activity is not research and IRB review is not needed.**

YES → **Activity is research.**

**Does it involve obtaining information or biospecimens from or about living human subjects?**

YES → **Does the research involve interaction or intervention with the human subjects, and will the research use, study, or analyze the information or biospecimens?**

NO → **Activity is not research involving human subjects and IRB review is not needed.**

YES → **Does the research obtain, use, study, analyze, or generate identifiable information or biospecimens?** *Is the identity of the subject known, or may readily be ascertained, by the investigator or associated with the information or biospecimens?*

YES → **Is the information private?** *Private means behavior that occurs in a context in which an individual can reasonably expect that no observation or recording is taking place, and information that has been provided for specific purposes by an individual and that the individual can reasonably expect will not be made public.*

NO → **Activity is not research involving human subjects and IRB review is not needed.**

YES → **Activity is research involving human subjects. Please submit the project to the Cal Poly IRB for review.**

**Other Federal, State, local laws and/or regulations may apply.**