ENGG*41X0 Final Design Projects Involving Human Subjects

Requirements for Obtaining Research Ethics Board (REB) Approval

The Panel on Research Ethics (PRE) was created in 2001 to develop, interpret, and implement the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS). This document provides the basis for institutions to provide guidance to researchers regarding the use of human beings for the purposes of research. The nature of this research includes surveys, clinical trials, interviews, pilot testing – in fact any interaction with a living human participant, or biological materials from living and deceased individuals. [Article 2.1, p. 15]. If you plan to interact with a human participant or human biological material, either during thesis or faculty research, or during a course based project, an application must be submitted to the Research Ethics Board – Natural, Physical and Engineering Sciences (REB-NPES).

Please note the resources available on the Ethics website – under Prior to Approval there are weekly Brown Bag lunches, and Monthly workshops, plus contact information for Ethics staff who will be happy to assist. The Resources section of the Ethics website contains a link to the CORE tutorial administered by PRE which will guide you through the TCPS, providing background information for all of the ethics requirements.

Please note that ethics clearance takes at least 2 weeks, and may take longer depending on the level of risk to human participants. Begin the process early in your research plan.