

Research projects initiated by persons outside the college need to be approved by the appropriate Research Office (depending on whether the study is college-based or involves a district-wide perspective). It is the responsibility of the Research Office to coordinate college-related research efforts, ensure that these efforts support the mission and integrity of the college and protect the confidentiality of our students. For that reason, any individual who is conducting research of this nature should:

1. Consult the “Guidelines for Non-Employees Conducting Research,” which is available at <http://cassl.crc.losrios.edu/Research-Guidelines-External.pdf>
2. Complete and submit a formal “Request To Do Research,” which is available at <http://cassl.crc.losrios.edu/ResearchProposalCoverSheet.pdf>

If the project is campus-based and requires the involvement of current or former CRC students or staff, Kathy McLain will convene a committee that includes Research Office representatives and other college personnel who will be involved with and/or impacted by the research study or results. Otherwise, a district committee will be convened to review and approve the request.

To request assistance from the Research Office please submit a request via the form that is online at: http://research.crc.losrios.edu/Research_request_form.htm

Feel free to also contact any member of the Research Office directly.

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LEARNING MORE ABOUT OUR STUDENTS



How They Learn,
Assessing Their Success

*A GUIDE to RESEARCH
at Cosumnes River College*



The Cosumnes River College Research Office, in order to help improve the success of our students, is interested in facilitating and supporting a research-based culture of evidence at the institution. In particular, we are interested in supporting employees and community members who wish to conduct research at the college. These research activities usually fall in one of the following areas:

- classroom-based research to guide instructional improvement;
- program-based research to guide program improvement;
- employee research that is not classroom or program based; and
- research projects initiated by persons who are not Los Rios employees.

The information in this brochure outlines the responsibilities for those conducting research in these areas, describes the administrative processes and resources relevant to the area, and outlines how the research office can help if you are involved in a research project.

Classroom-based research is research conducted within a classroom for the purpose of improving instruction. We are available to help you with these types of projects. In particular, we would be happy to assist you design and implement tools and strategies to assess:

- the success of individual class activities;
- the effectiveness of a new teaching methodology; and
- course student learning outcomes.

Information about various tools and strategies can also be obtained from the Center for Advancement of Staff and Student Learning (CASSL) Web site at <http://cassl.crc.losrios.edu/> and from print resources located in the CASSL.

Further information relevant to this type of research, including best practices, is available in the brochure “Issues to Consider When Conducting Student or Staff Research” which is available online at <http://cassl.crc.losrios.edu/ResearchGuidelines-Faculty.pdf>

If you are struggling with some aspect of student learning, the Research Office would be glad to help you research the issue to identify strategies you might wish to pilot test.

Program-based research is research conducted about students in a program for the purpose of improving the program. The research office can provide data to support these types of projects. Information relevant to this type of research, including best practices, is available in the brochure “Issues to Consider When Conducting Student or Staff Research,” which is available online at <http://cassl.crc.losrios.edu/ResearchGuidelines-Faculty.pdf>

Employees who wish to conduct research that is not classroom or program-based, or who are asked to recruit participants for a non-employee’s research project are encouraged to contact the faculty researcher and/or the college research office for more information. It is critical that students involved in these types of projects understand that their participation is voluntary and anonymous.

Faculty and administrators are encouraged to share the results of research projects with the educational community both on and off campus. The research office would be happy to assist with the development and scheduling of on-campus presentations of research results through the CASSL.