

Policy on Counseling Center Notification of Research on Sensitive Topics

All researchers whose study participants consist of students (undergraduate or graduate) at Loyola University Maryland are encouraged to specify the Counseling Center at Loyola as a resource within their informed consent document, when there are emotional risks to participants. *If the research involves topics that may be potentially distressing to the students, researchers must consult with the Counseling Center before submitting an IRB proposal.*

Studies that focus on any of the following topics are considered potentially distressing:

- Suicide
- Self-harming thoughts and/or behaviors
- Thoughts and/or behaviors of harming others
- Sexual or physical assault
- Significant loss (death, bereavement)
- Trauma
- Significant substance use
- History of psychotic symptoms
- Cultural or identity-based oppression, microaggression, or stress
- Family history of severe psychopathology

The Counseling Center can assist researchers with identifying and citing appropriate resources to include in the informed consent documents and better anticipate any potential support students may need after participating in the research study. Some students who are emotionally affected by research may prefer off-campus resources or relevant non-therapy based resources. The Counseling Center is happy to recommend appropriate, study-specific resources and is grateful for the opportunity to contribute to public health through partnership with the important research Loyola faculty, staff, and students are conducting.