**Dual Use Research of Concern and Pathogens with Enhanced Pandemic Potential**

Effective May 6, 2025, the [U.S. Government Policy for Oversight of Dual Use Research of Concern and Pathogens with Enhanced Pandemic Potential](https://aspr.hhs.gov/S3/Documents/USG-Policy-for-Oversight-of-DURC-and-PEPP-May2024-508.pdf) mandates that any proposed research that involves dual use research of concern (DURC) or pathogens with enhanced pandemic potential (PEPP) must be reviewed by an Institutional Review Entity (IRE).

DURC/PEPP Policy defines and outlines oversight requirements for two categories of research at Unites States Government-funded institutions:

**Category 1:** research involving dual use research of concern (DURC), and

**Category 2:** research involving pathogens with enhanced pandemic potential (PEPP).

It is the responsibility of Principal Investigators (PD/PIs) and other Key Personnel/Researchers to assess whether or not their research falls under the scope of DURC/PEPP research. EIU’s grant Proposal Transmittal Form (PTF) includes a designated area requiring Principal Investigators to disclose whether the proposed research involves Category 1 or Category 2 research.

Review Process

**Research may not be initiated without formal written approval from the Institutional Review Entity.**

When a submitted protocol indicates potential DURC activity, the following individuals will form the IRE:

Director, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

Dean, Graduate School

Chair of the Principal Investigator’s academic department

Dean of the Principal Investigator’s academic department

An individual with applicable expertise

Provost (as needed)

Referencing [US Government Policy for Oversight of Dual Use Research of Concern and Pathogens with Enhanced Pandemic Potential (May 2024)](https://aspr.hhs.gov/S3/Documents/USG-Policy-for-Oversight-of-DURC-and-PEPP-May2024-508.pdf) as a guide, the IRE will:

1. Assess whether research meets the criteria for Category 1 or Category 2 Research.
2. Works with the PI to conduct a risk-benefit assessment and develop a risk mitigation plan for the research, as necessary.
3. Ensures that the federal funding agency is notified and the risk mitigation plan is reviewed, approved, and implemented prior to the initiation of the proposed research.

If the IRE determines that the research in question does not meet the definition of Category 1 or Category 2 research, the IRE will communicate this determination to the federal funding agency.

Approved Category 1 or Category 2 Research

The research must be conducted in accordance with the approved risk mitigation plan and will be periodically reviewed by the IRE to determine if additional modifications to the risk mitigation plan are appropriate.

The PI and all other relevant personnel are required, per federal policy, to complete federally-approved DURC/PEPP training before proceeding with any activities.

Reporting and Oversight Contact

Any concerns or questions related to potential DURC/PEPP must be addressed to:

Director of Compliance/Institutional Contact for Dual Use Research (ICDUR)

Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

217-581-2125 | eiugrants@eiu.edu

Conducting DURC research without appropriate institutional review and approval may result in disciplinary action and referral to federal oversight authorities as required by law. Non-compliance with this Policy may result in suspension, limitation, or termination of USG funding, or loss of future USG funding opportunities for the non-compliant USG-funded research project and of USG funds for other life sciences research at the institution, consistent with existing regulations and policies governing USG funded research, and may subject the institution to other potential penalties under applicable laws and regulations.