

completion. A considerable proportion of the participants 41(50.62%) answered they have never applied for IRB approval before here at NJCU. The remaining 40 participants answered that have applied for IRB approval for a total of 1-3 attempts 30 (75.00%), and 4 or more attempts 10 (25.00%).

When looking at the questions “Did you have the information to determine the necessity of the IRB review?”, 35 (87.50%) of the participants answered “yes,” and the remaining 5 (12.50%) answered “no.” “Did you get the response that you expected from the Institutional Review Board Committee (IRBC) acceptance/rejection?”, 28 (70.00%) of the participants answered “yes,” and the remaining 12 (30.00%) answered “no.” The participants 21 (52.50%) did feel that the response time from the IRBC was reasonable, but 19 (47.50%) did not feel the response time was reasonable. An overwhelming number of the participants, 31(77.50%), indicated that the IRBC requested changes to the application in which they had submitted. The changes that were requested from the IRBC 28 (70.00%) of the participants answered it was not related to the survey instrument used in their studies. There were no additional questions in the survey

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on cancer patients vs. administration of survey questionnaires); that there needed to be greater attention paid to the time it takes to approve research particularly of student researchers, which needs to be expedited in order to fit their time-sensitive degree paths.

And the third group (about 50%) expressed ignorance about the process itself and a desire to be more educated about our University IRB process itself, from knowing what the guidelines are and where to find them, to which kinds of projects need IRB approval and which are exempt, even to understanding all the acronyms and other terms used in the process whose meanings are not universally understood, especially for those who don't have a background in the fields in which an IRB approval is standard.

The fact that half of those who responded expressed a desire to understand or simply know more about the process and how to access the application, or even confusion about when such approval is needed, must be significant and would suggest there are others who don't know what they don't know, and hence didn't respond to the survey.

Several concrete suggestions came in these comments, especially around accessible information on when IRB approval is required, what the process is at our university, and how much time is necessary; and providing training workshops for faculty (and student researchers) on the process itself, workshops that are mindful of the differences between scientific research and qualitative research, and between sensitive populations (such as experimental work or work with children, prisoners, or international research) and local, less vulnerable populations (such as anonymized surveys of college students, local residents).

It was also recommended to switch to an online application and review system like Interfolio.

Appendix (IRB Survey):

IRB Process Survey

Survey Flow

Block: Block 1 (2 Questions)
Standard: Block 2 (2 Questions)
Standard: Block 3 (12 Questions)

Page Break

Start of Block: Block 1

Text-1
IRB Process Survey

Text-2 Whereas the Institutional Review Board provides a vital service for the faculty and students conducting research, the University Senate Academic Support & Services Committee requests feedback of the IRB process at NJCU from various participants and stakeholders in the process. Based on the data collected, the ASSC may make recommendations to the Senate.

End of Block: Block 1

Start of Block: Block 2

QR Rank

- Assistant Professor (1)
 - Associate Professor (2)
 - Professor (3)
 - Staff (4)
 - Other (5) _____
-

QC College

- Arts and Science (1)
- Business (2)
- Education (3)
- Professional Studies (4)

End of Block: Block 2

Start of Block: Block 3

Q1 Have you applied for IRB approval before?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Skip To: Q9 If Have you applied for IRB approval before? = No

Q2 If yes how many times:

- 1-3 (1)
 - 4 and more (2)
-

Q3 Did you have the information to determine the necessity of IRB Review?

- Yes (1)
 - No (2)
-

Q4 Did you get the response that you expected from IRBC (acceptance/rejection)?

- N1BDC(B) (2)**

Q6 Did the IRBC request changes to the application?

Yes (44)

No (45)

Q7 Did the IRBC request changes to the Survey Instrument?

Yes (23)

No (24)

Q11 What information do you need as you consider whether to apply for IRB approval?

Q12 What suggestions do you have to streamline the IRB approval process, while still supplying the necessary protections for human subjects?

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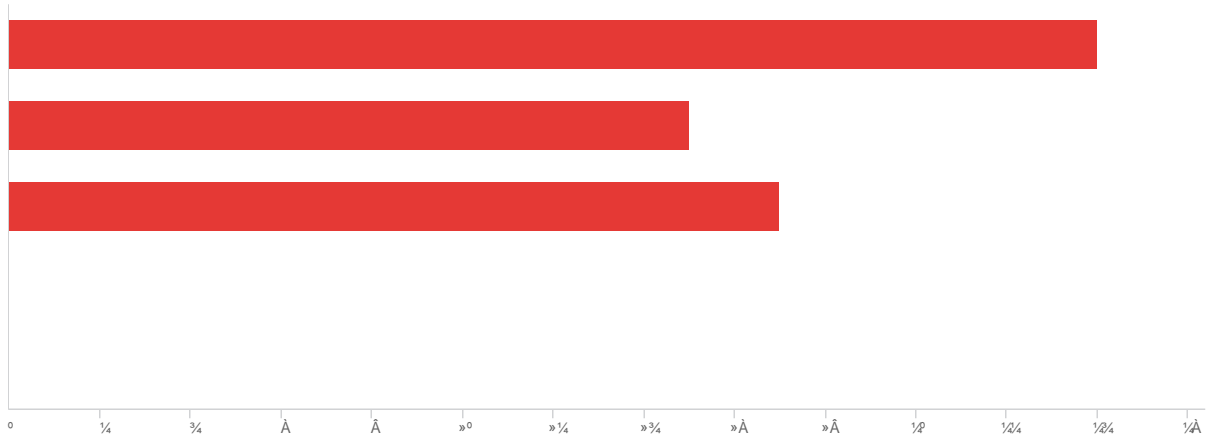
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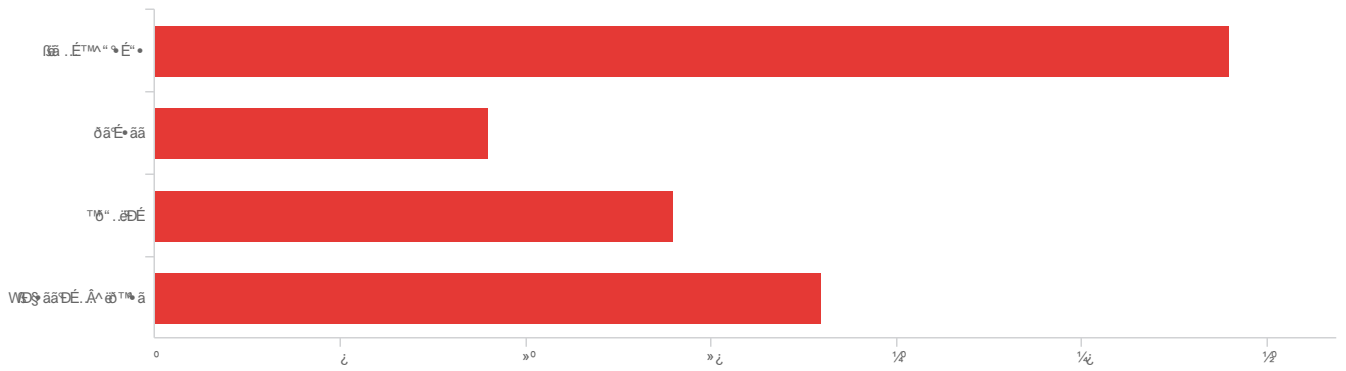
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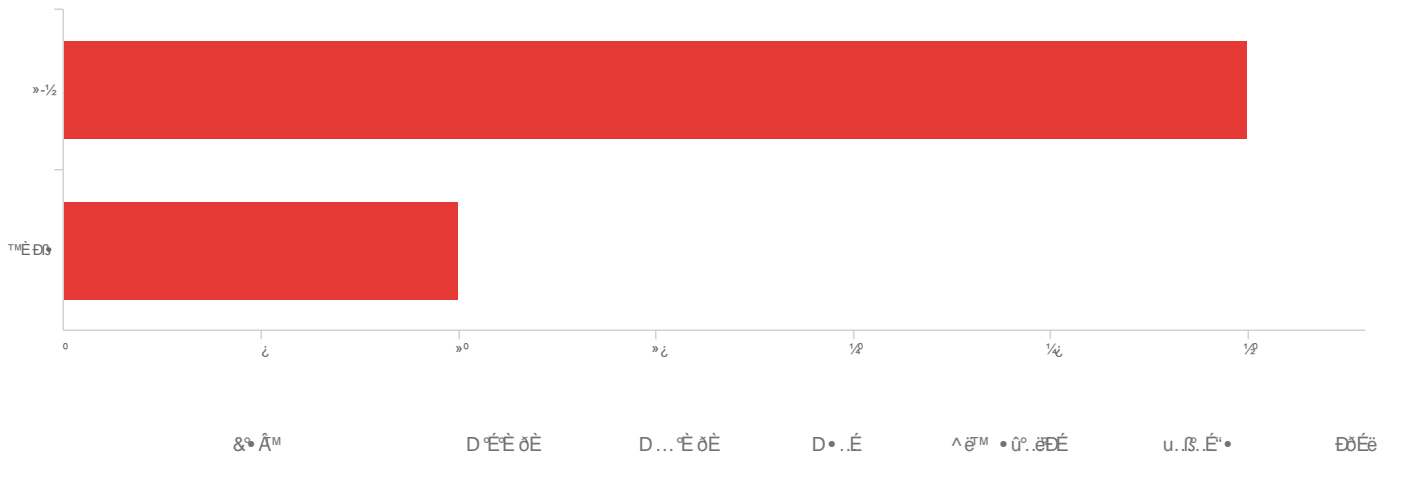
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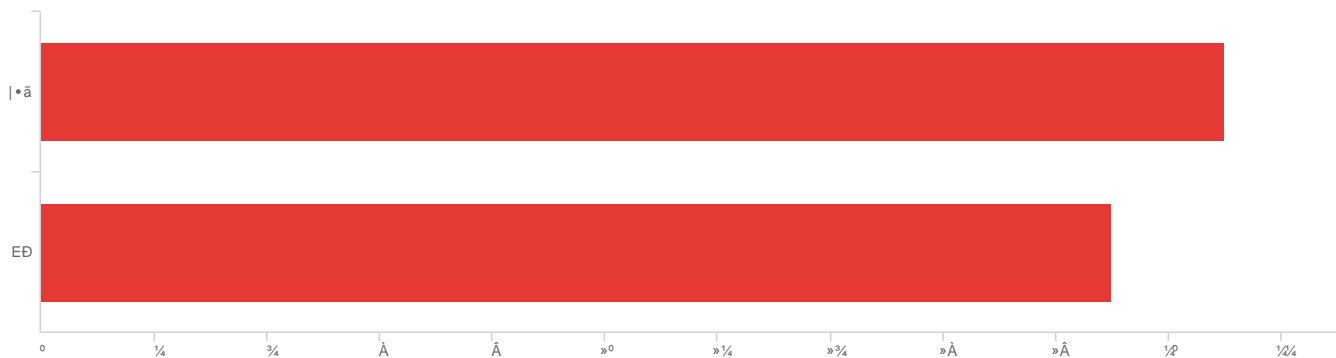
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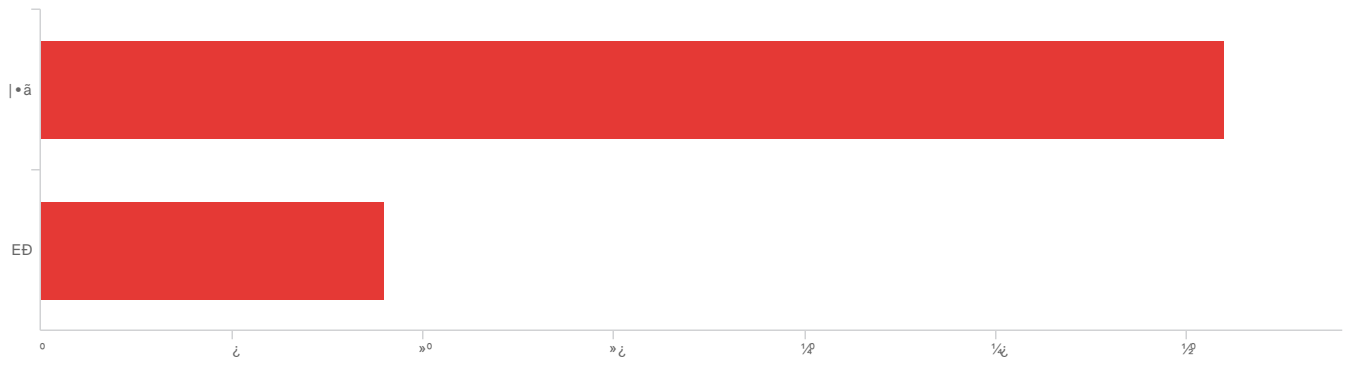
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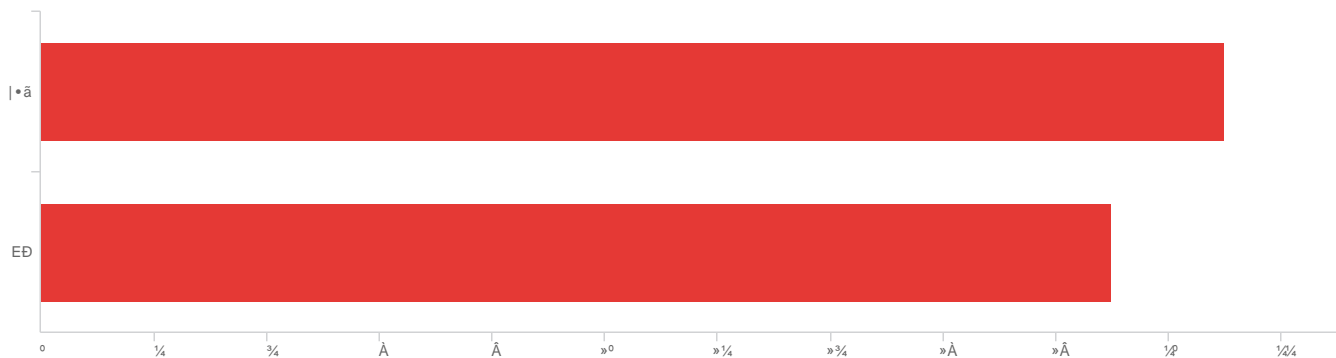


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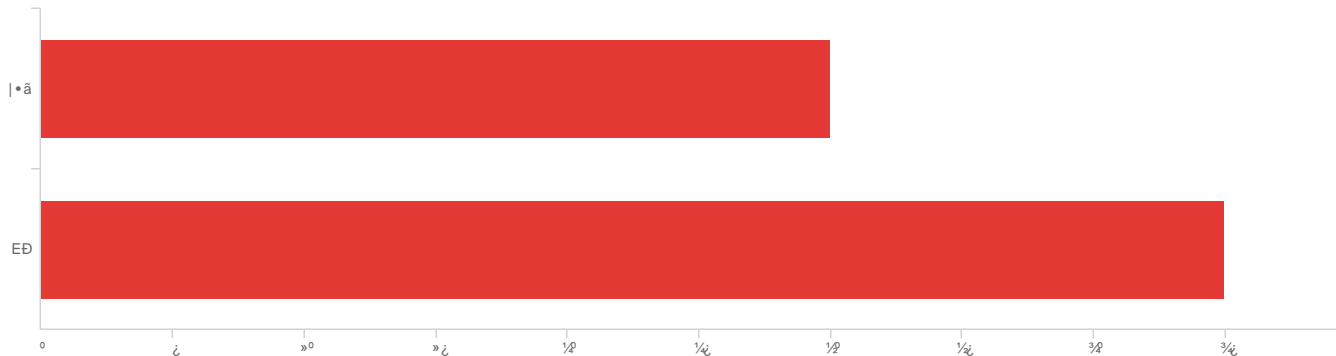
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