

**anonymity:** Ethical safeguard against invasion of privacy in which data cannot be identified with particular research participants.

**beneficence:** The Belmont principle that researchers have an obligation to secure the well-being of participants by maximizing possible benefits and minimizing possible harms.

**Common Rule:** Label given to the federal policy for the protection of human subjects.

**confidentiality:** Ethical safeguard against invasion of privacy by which data obtained from participants are not shared with others without their permission.

**conflict of interest:** In science, a conflict between the goal of producing accurate, unbiased knowledge and other motives such as financial gain, professional advancement, or political interests.

**debriefing:** A session at the end of a study in which an investigator meets with a participant to impart information about the study, including its real purpose and the nature and purpose of deception (if used), and to respond to questions and concerns.

**ethics:** Standards of moral conduct that distinguish right from wrong.

**informed consent:** The ethical principle that individuals should be given enough information about a study, especially its potential risks and benefits, to make an informed decision about whether to participate.

**Institutional Review Board (IRB):** A committee formed at nearly all colleges and universities that is responsible for reviewing research proposals to assess provisions for the treatment of human (and animal) subjects.

**justice:** The Belmont principle that the benefits and burdens of research should be fairly distributed, so that the group selected for research also may benefit from its application.

**respect for persons:** The Belmont principle that individuals must be treated as autonomous agents who have the freedom and capacity to decide what happens to them, and researchers must protect those with diminished autonomy.