

## SoTL IRB Overview

The [USM Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation](#) has partnered with the Human Research Protection Program in the [UMCP Division of Research](#) to develop a Systemwide IRB protocol for USM faculty engaging in Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) research projects that pose minimal risk to participants. The Kirwan Center oversees the standing SoTL IRB protocol that has been approved by UMCP's Institutional Review Board.

With the protocol and appropriate institutional agreements in place, USM faculty can propose specific SoTL projects using a streamlined amendment form that will go to the UMCP IRB for expedited review. The process will allow faculty to complete a simple form and receive a timely turnaround on project proposals while freeing up precious time for local IRBs across the System. For the purposes of the protocol, SoTL is defined as the systematic investigation of student learning, instruction, and/or teaching innovations and the dissemination of findings so as to contribute to a broader knowledge community. SoTL projects at their essence aim to improve student success by providing an evidence base to help inform course design and instructional decisions undertaken by faculty and programs.