Chapter 4: Ethics and the Institutional Review Board (IRB) Process

# Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the major studies and events that led to the development of the Nuremburg Code, Belmont Report, and APA Code of Ethics. Additionally, discuss the major components of each report. What ethical issues that arose in these studies and events were specifically addressed by each report?

2. IRB boards must weigh the benefits of a study versus its risks. Describe and discuss the types of risks that a study may pose for participants. Consider both physical and psychological risks to participating in a study. Describe and discuss the type of benefits that study may provide to both the individual and society. Would the risks of the Milgram and Stanford Prison Study outweigh the benefits today? Do you think they did when they originally conducted the studies?

3. Discuss why researchers would need to use deception in their research. What would happen if researches told participants what a study was about at the beginning of the study? How might it affect the results? What are the differences between active and passive deception? How do they address any concerns researchers have about a participants’ responses?

4. All universities that conduct research require that researchers be trained and/or certified in ethics training either through a certification provided by the school or a national certification (e.g., Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative). Why do you think researchers should also receive training in ethics? What advantage does it offer the university and the IRB boards of review?