# **Lab/Project Ethics Addendum (Final)**

This project involves the supervised use of wearable biometric sensors for academic research at Hocking College. The study must be approved by the faculty sponsor and, when required, reviewed by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Ethics Committee. All participants will receive a plain-language consent form describing the purpose, risks, and benefits of the study. Participation is voluntary and may be withdrawn at any time without penalty. Approved devices only will be used, no invasive or self-experimentation procedures are allowed. Collected data will follow a minimum-necessary policy, anonymized, encrypted, and retained for no more than 30 days. Any adverse events or discomfort will result in immediate suspension of testing and notification of the faculty sponsor and safety consultant within 24 hours. The project emphasizes safety, transparency, and accountability in all lab activities.

# Equity & Access Analysis

The benefits of this project include improved understanding of biometric data for educational and wellness purposes. However, not all students may have equal access to wearable technology or feel comfortable sharing health-related data. To mitigate inequity, the study provides optional participation, ensures that non-participants are not penalized, and uses anonymized group data rather than individual comparisons. Accessibility accommodations will be provided for any student unable or unwilling to use a device, ensuring equitable participation opportunities for all.

# Justification

According to Chapter 12, the bioethics principles of autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, and justice guide the safe and ethical use of emerging technologies. This addendum supports autonomy through informed consent and withdrawal options, beneficence by aiming to enhance learning safely, and non-maleficence by prohibiting invasive or high-risk procedures. Chapter 13 adds that societal impacts must be considered; thus, this project balances innovation with privacy and fairness to prevent discrimination or coercion. The addendum serves as a policy tool to align lab practices with ethical standards and social responsibility.

# Reflection

One trade-off I would revisit involves setting risk thresholds for wearable data monitoring. While conservative limits protect participant safety, they might also restrict meaningful data collection for analysis. Expanding the threshold under strict oversight could improve research accuracy without compromising ethics. I would also consider refining consent scope language to clarify how anonymized data may contribute to future studies while maintaining participant autonomy.