Do I need INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC) approval for my Honors thesis research?

First step: Discuss this with your thesis advisor!

• If you are planning to conduct research that involves animals, you must complete the IACUC training course of CITI and seek IACUC approval prior to experimentation and data collection.
  
  o Animal research requiring IACUC approval:
    ✓ Conducting experiments with live vertebrates
    ✓ Conducting field studies with animals that involve capturing, tagging, blood sampling, invasive procedures or manipulations
    ✓ Collaborative studies with scientists at other institutions if they fit one or both of the previously listed categories.
  
  o Consult with your thesis adviser about the need for IACUC approval!
  
  o If you are playing a role in your thesis advisor’s research project for which an active IACUC approval already exists, you and your advisor must submit a modification form that lists you as additional participant.

• If you are not sure whether your research project requires IACUC approval, contact iacuc@usm.edu for clarification.

How do I apply for IACUC approval?

• Go to https://www.usm.edu/research/institutional-animal-care-and-use-committee for more information.
  
  o See “IACUC Links” for more details about animal care and use policies and various resources, as well as forms and documentation you must submit to apply for IACUC approval.
  
  o Email the completed, signed application form and appendices to your thesis advisor. Your advisor will review and sign your forms, which then must be reviewed and approved by the department chair/unit director, who will submit the application documents to iacuc@usm.edu. In addition, hard copies of the signed cover sheet and assurance statements must be submitted to Ms. Cyndi Wyles, Box 5116.

How long does it usually take the IACUC to review and approve my application?

• Usually, the IACUC will need approximately 4-6 weeks to review your application once it has been submitted; if changes are needed and/or additional information is requested, the review process will take longer.
  
  o It is imperative that you initiate the application process as soon as you have developed your research protocol and have obtained approval from your advisor.
  
  o You should ensure that you provide the IACUC with all requested information and address all concerns. It pays to prepare a thorough application!