The ENE at F&M URGE pod is made up of faculty, staff, and students of the department of Earth and Environment at Franklin & Marshall College. The department of Earth and Environment contains three major areas: Geosciences, Environmental Science, and Environmental Studies.

Our faculty have a range of expertise, with some individuals trained in social science fields such as Anthropology and Sociology, and others trained in physical and/or natural science fields such as Geosciences and Environmental Science. Some faculty have direct training and experience with developing and implementing participatory research projects, action research projects, and a combination of the two, that actively engage communities in various ways and at various stages in the process. For others, their research targets areas of physical and/or natural science that don’t inherently require engagement of communities.

Thus, the question of working with communities of color leads to a broader question of how do we capacitate physical and natural scientists to engage with communities in any way at all?

Currently F&M has no explicit procedures or policies that directly speak to working with communities of color. As a department, we are in ongoing conversation about developing a procedure for a departmental review for research that pertains to human subjects. The relevant policy information from the College is provided below.

**Information on F&M faculty research policies:**
(excerpted from the 2020-2021 Faculty Handbook, pp. 87+)

**INTRODUCTION**

An important allied responsibility of faculty members, beyond teaching, is the advancement of knowledge through research and scholarship. Faculty members should expect to devote a portion of their time to research and other scholarly activities and should expect encouragement and assistance from the administration of the College in the pursuit of those interests. Also, students who demonstrate the will and aptitude for pursuing research may materially increase the benefits of their education through participation in supervised research activity.

There is need, however, for some central coordination of research—for the development of institutional policies relating to research and scholarly activity, and for the designation of a collegial committee to study and make recommendations on applications for College funds for these activities. Administrative personnel can assist in obtaining support for research and ensure that College policies and procedures are followed and that sponsors’ requirements are met.
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The involvement of administrative personnel is necessary if the College has obligations relating to budget, the use of equipment, and the provision of facilities, among others. If a sponsoring agency holds the College responsible for concurrence or compliance in any provision of the contract or grant, the institution must exercise some form of surveillance. Whether the research is conducted on or off the campus is irrelevant. When the College has no responsibility, as is the case with such grants as Danforth, Fulbright, and Guggenheim, central administration is not exercised. It is essential, however, that the Office of the Provost be told of the receipt of such grants.

1. **Research Involving Human Subjects**

   Any research involving human subjects that is supported by a federal government grant must be reviewed by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) unless it is specifically exempted from such review under section 46.101 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 45, Part 46. All other research involving human subjects, whether funded or not, must be reviewed by the IRB.

   The College is committed to ensuring that research involving human subjects is consistent with sound ethical principles and that it is in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations. College policy and procedures relating to research involving human subjects are based on the conclusions and recommendations in the *Report of the President’s Panel on Privacy and Behavioral Research*, published in 1967 in *Science* 155: 535–538. All research involving human subjects should be subject to a regular review procedure.

   Each department in which research involving human subjects is conducted in the context of College courses shall establish formal procedures, which will be used by the investigators to provide adequate safeguards against any infringement upon the rights and welfare of the subjects. The department’s procedures must include a mechanism that will bring any activities that require approval of the IRB to the attention of that committee, and they must assure the proper day-to-day implementation of procedures that have been approved by the IRB. A document describing these procedures should be submitted to the IRB for its approval.

   All research involving human subjects other than that conducted in the context of College courses must receive approval from the Institutional Review Board prior to its initiation.

   All departments in which research involving human subjects is undertaken should obtain and require members of the Faculty to be familiar with the *Report of the President’s Panel on Privacy and Behavioral Research*. 
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