What is Research?	The Tri-Council for Ethical Research defines research as "an undertaking intended to extend knowledge through a disciplined inquiry and/or systematic investigation" (TCPS-2, Article 2.1).
Why have ethics review for course-based activities?	Research Ethics Review is limited to those activities defined as "research" involving "human participants." It includes course-based research activities, the primary purpose of which is pedagogical, because of the possible risks to those recruited to participate in such activities, and the fact that, from their perspective, such activities may appear indistinguishable from those that meet this Policy's definition of research (Application of Article 6.12).
What kinds of course-based activities involving human participants require ethics approval?	**Course assignments or activities** that involve research participants from **outside of the classroom where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy** (see TCPS article 2.2 for definition) likely require research ethics approval. The assignment or activity may include all or some elements of the research process (e.g., recruitment, data collection, analysis, reporting). See below for a decision chart.
What kinds of course-based activities involving human participants *do not* require ethics review?	**Skills development** in a client-based setting does not require ethics approval. This refers to skills that are considered standard practice within a profession (e.g., observation, assessment, intervention, evaluation, or information-gathering (nurse to patient, teacher to student).
	Research skills practice within the classroom between fellow students does not require ethics approval if the activities (e.g., interviewing, focus groups) involve **no more than minimal risk** and **do not involve deception**. The findings from the practice activities will not be shared outside the classroom.
	The use of **publicly available data** (public datasets, observation in a setting where there is no reasonable expectation of privacy) does not require ethics review. However, according to Chapter 9**, even if data is publicly available, if you can identify the specific population or culture from which that data arises, you have an ethical responsibility to engage with that population.** Therefore, your project might not require REB review but does require ethical engagement of the population.
Which Ethics Protocol application should be used for course-based research?	Some course-based research activities will require Full Ethics Protocol approval, while others will only need the Course-Based Ethics Protocol. The Course-Based Ethics Protocol is renewable up to four times and is tied to the course, rather than to the project or specific instructor.

The Course-Based Ethics Protocol is required when:	The course assignment or activity involves **no more than minimal risk** and **does not involve minors or vulnerable populations** or **deception.**
	Minimal risk research is "research in which the probability and magnitude of possible harms implied by participation in the research are no greater than those encountered by participants in those aspects of their everyday life that relate to the research"(TCPS-2.8).
	The course-based research **does not involve minors or vulnerable populations** as participants (this typically includes persons with diminished capacities for consent or persons with limited access to social goods, such as rights, opportunities, and power). It also does **not involve deception**.
	The Course-Based Research Protocol may cover both full-class projects and individualized projects within the course.
	Instructors of graduate courses and honours seminar may submit a Course-Based Research Ethics application for research activities that primarily have pedagogical purpose. However, honours theses, MRPs, Masters theses, and dissertations require Full REB approval.

All other course-based research, including secondary use of data, research above minimal risk, research involving vulnerable populations, or research using deception must use the Full Research Ethics protocol. Research disseminated beyond the classroom also requires the Full Research Ethics protocol.

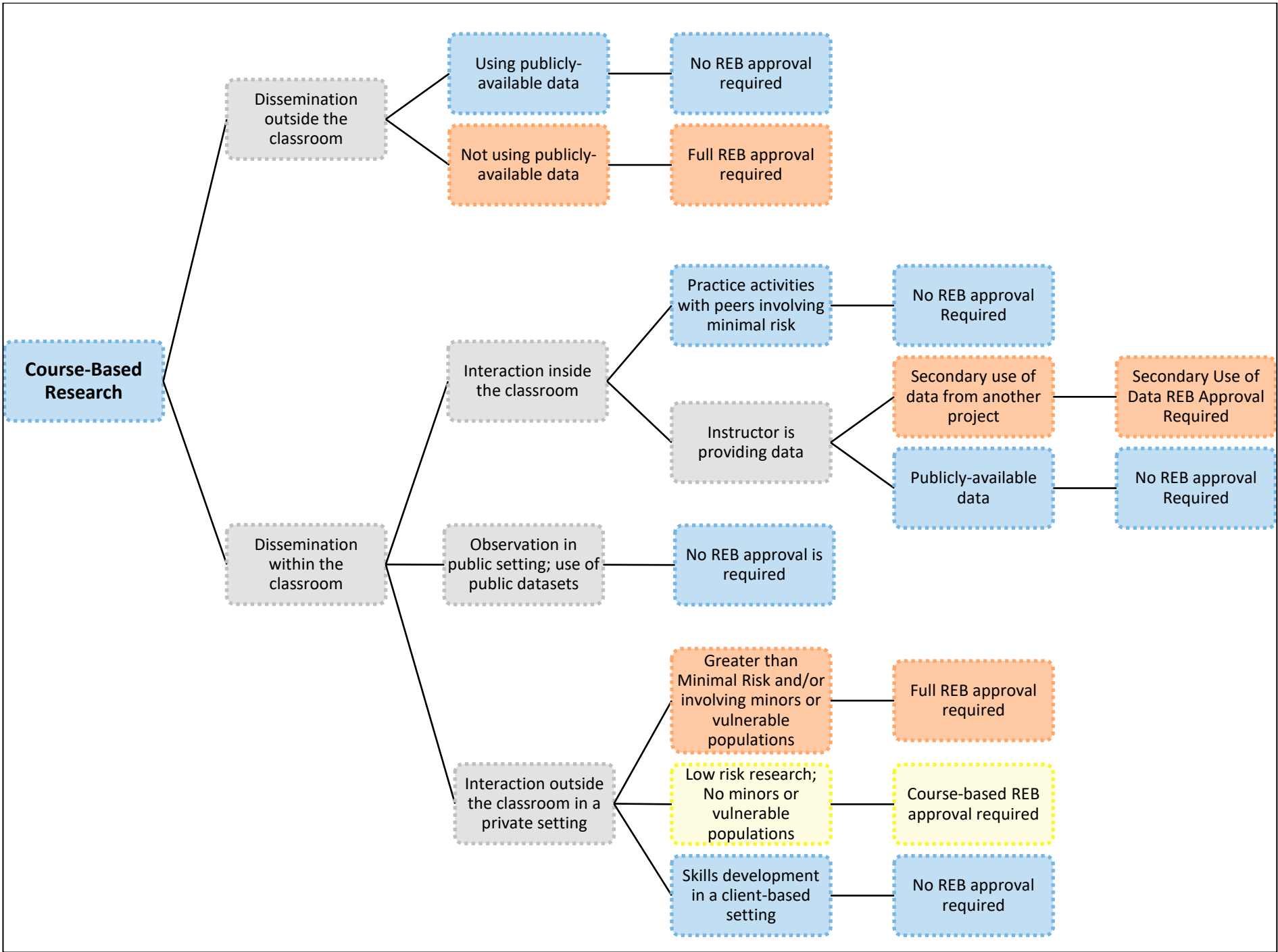| **The full Research Ethics protocol or Secondary Use of Data protocol is required when:**	The course assignment or activity involves **greater than minimal risk or involves minors or vulnerable populations or deception**. If so, the instructor must submit a Full REB protocol application.
	The instructor is providing **data from another project**. If so, the instructor must submit a Secondary Use of Data Research Ethics Protocol.
	The course-based research results are going to **disseminated beyond the classroom**. If so, this requires a Full REB protocol application and approval before proceeding. Therefore, think about where you would like to disseminate your results prior to submitting a course-based research application to the REB. This also includes projects that are done in partnership with community or industry.
	Supervisors of Honours Theses, MRPs, MA theses, or dissertations must submit the Full REB protocol application.

These guidelines serve as a quick reference for course-based research. For further clarification, consult NU's Research Ethics Board.

Course-Based Research

- **Dissemination outside the classroom**
  - Using publicly-available data — No REB approval required
  - Not using publicly-available data — Full REB approval required

- **Dissemination within the classroom**
  - Interaction inside the classroom
    - Practice activities with peers involving minimal risk — No REB approval Required
    - Instructor is providing data
      - Secondary use of data from another project — Secondary Use of Data REB Approval Required
      - Publicly-available data — No REB approval Required
  - Observation in public setting; use of public datasets — No REB approval is required
  - Interaction outside the classroom in a private setting
    - Greater than Minimal Risk and/or involving minors or vulnerable populations — Full REB approval required
    - Low risk research; No minors or vulnerable populations — Course-based REB approval required
    - Skills development in a client-based setting — No REB approval required