



Youth Protection Program Laboratory Guidelines

In an effort to prevent exposure to hazardous materials, laboratory pathogens, injuries, and other inherent dangers that may be present in university laboratories, the university has adopted policies and procedures, as well as the following guidelines to establish safeguards for minors participating in programs utilizing university laboratories.

1. Minors under the age of 13 may not be present in a laboratory, unless they are touring or visiting a laboratory pursuant to the requirements below:
 - Minors may enter a laboratory as part of an authorized and supervised tour or visit.
 - The program sponsor must designate a primary supervisor, who will be responsible for providing any appropriate personal protective equipment for visitors.
 - Laboratory tours may only be conducted at times when all hazardous materials are properly stored and are not being used for experiments.
 - Minors participating in tours or visits must be supervised at all times while on the premises and may not participate in any laboratory activities.

2. Minors age 13-17 are allowed in a laboratory setting when they are participating in a program, provided that:
 - they have written consent from their parent or guardian;
 - they have received general lab safety training from the university Environmental Health and Safety Office (EHS), which has been documented;
 - they have been trained in the specific hazards to which they may be exposed in the laboratory;
 - they agree to strictly adhere to the laboratory-specific requirements; and
 - the principal investigator (i.e. the qualified adult designated for the responsibility of supervising the laboratory) is present at all times.

3. **Supervision is required!** Minors may not, under any circumstances, be alone in a university laboratory. A program staff member(s) who meets the Youth Protection policy background check requirements must be present with the minor at all times.

4. **Restrictions:** Minors ages 13-17 are restricted from working with certain hazardous materials or equipment as follows:
 - a. **Biological Hazards:**
 - Minors are prohibited from working with biohazardous materials above Biosafety Level 2 (BSL-2).
 - Minors are prohibited from working with Biosafety Level 2 pathogens or higher.
 - Minors may not be exposed to, or work with, biological material or agents that require medical surveillance.
 - Minors may not perform duties in which they are required to directly work with human and/or nonhuman primate blood, body fluids, and tissue.
 - Minors are prohibited from working with human and nonhuman primate retroviruses.

- Minors are prohibited from working with Select Agents or Toxins.
- Minors may not directly work with research animals or facilities that house or conduct procedures on research animals.
- Minors are prohibited from working with controlled substances that are regulated under the federal Controlled Substance Act (Schedule I-V).

b. Radiological Hazards:

- Minors under age 16 are prohibited from working with radiation or permitted in a university laboratory that contains radioactive materials.
- Minors 16 or 17 years of age are prohibited from handling source vials and need special permission from UCF's Radiation Safety Officer to use other radioactive materials, including performing surveys.
- Minors are not permitted in areas of high radiation or airborne radioactivity (as defined in 10 CFR 20.1003) or any area where there is potential exposure to radiation in excess of 0.1 rem (1 mSv) total effective dose equivalent or in excess of the limits set forth in 10A NCAC 15.1611.
- Minors are prohibited from directly operating X-ray generating equipment.

c. Chemical Hazards:

- Minors are not permitted to work with carcinogens, reproductive toxins (teratogens or mutagens) or other acutely toxic chemicals.
- Minors are prohibited from working with controlled substances (Schedule I-V) and chemical precursors.
- Minors are prohibited from working with highly hazardous materials (pyrophoric, explosives, and large quantities of flammable materials).
- Minors may handle lower risk chemicals in limited circumstances, with proper safety equipment as necessary, and at the discretion of the laboratory's principal investigator.

d. Hazardous Equipment:

- Minors are not permitted in areas with Class 3B or 4 lasers.
- Minors are not permitted to work with hazardous equipment (such as lathes, drill press, laser cutters, etc.).

5. **Exceptions:** In view of the open and diverse research environment at UCF, these guidelines provide for limited exceptions to these requirements based upon review and written approval by EHS. In considering whether an exception to these guidelines is warranted, departments should forward their request to EHS. EHS will consult with UCF's Youth Protection Program, the Office of Risk Management, the Office of Research and/or the Office of the General Counsel as necessary. Relevant information to consider includes: the specific laboratory environment; the minor's previous lab course work and/or related experience; the safety training the minor will receive; the ability of the lab to provide close supervision; and the purpose of the proposed lab experience.