

Minors Involved in Laboratory Research and Teaching Activities

Adopted: 04/24/2007

Revised: 02/06/2008, 03/03/2009, 04/29/2014, 04/22/2021

Persons under 18 years of age are not allowed in University laboratories where hazardous materials are present or hazardous activities take place except under the following circumstances:

- 1) The minor is employed by the University or has been formally accepted as a volunteer worker; and
 - a. has been trained in safe laboratory procedures; and
 - b. has supervision by a knowledgeable and experienced adult employee at all times; and
 - c. has received and completed the appropriate State of Delaware, Department of Labor forms and approvals. Contact Human Resources for more information; or
- 2) The minor is enrolled in a University class with a laboratory component; or
- 3) The minor is participating in a University-sponsored program; and
 - a. has been trained in safe laboratory procedures; and
 - b. has supervision by a knowledgeable and experienced adult employee at all times; and
 - c. has a parental hazard-acknowledgement form on file with the host department.

Tours involving minors are handled under Chapter 10 of the University Chemical Hygiene Plan and are not subject to this policy provided the obligations under the Chemical Hygiene Plan are met.

*Under **no** circumstances shall children too young to understand safety training be permitted in University of Delaware laboratories except as research study participants with the signed consent of a parent or legal guardian.*

The following must be adhered when minors are working in the laboratory to:

1. Faculty Members or Principal Investigators must notify the Departmental Safety Committee and receive documented approval from the Chair of the Department or Director of the Program.
2. The minor must attend all applicable safety training sessions, including but not limited to:
 - a. Right-To-Know
 - b. Chemical Safety/Hygiene Plan
 - c. Any or all of the following, based on work performed:
 - i. Laboratory Ventilation Safety
 - ii. Chemical Waste Disposal
 - iii. Compressed Gas Safety
 - iv. Laser Safety
 - v. Radioactive Materials Safety
 - vi. Biosafety
 - vii. Bloodborne Pathogens
 - viii. X-Ray Device Safety

3. The minor is under the responsibility of a faculty member in the laboratory or area where the work will occur.
4. In situations where the minor is not participating in a laboratory science course, the responsible researcher must meet with the minor and review all Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). Written copies shall be provided. EHS shall review the JHA's or SOP's to assure all safety issues are addressed.
5. The minor must use all required personal protective equipment. Each college, school, department, division or unit shall provide or otherwise make available to each minor required to wear personal protective equipment the devices appropriate for the activity and hazard involved. Minors enrolled in a University of Delaware laboratory science course may be required to purchase their own personal protective equipment.
6. The minor must be monitored and supervised at all times by a knowledgeable and experienced adult employee. They must not work alone. Each task shall be evaluated. Work with reproductive toxins, chemical carcinogens and highly toxic materials shall not occur. Any procedures involving a hazardous operation shall be limited and controlled by the responsible researcher.
7. The minor must follow all Departmental, University, and EHS safety procedures and policies.
8. The Departmental Safety Committee or Departmental Chemical Hygiene Officer should perform spot inspections of the work and assure that all training is complete.
9. The minor must follow all applicable state and federal requirements and guidelines.
10. The Release of Liability and Waiver Claim Form must be completed by the parent or guardian of the minor.
11. The responsible Faculty member must complete the Principal Investigator/Supervisor Commitment Form.

**University of Delaware
Minors Involved in Laboratory Operations
Release of Liability and Waiver Claim**

I understand that: _____,
(print name of minor) (Date of Birth)

- is participating in a laboratory program at the University of Delaware and will study or learn in areas where hazardous substances (chemicals/biological/radioactive, etc.) or physical hazards (very hot or cold temperatures, laser light, electromagnetic frequencies, etc.) are present.
- As the parent/guardian, I understand, that this minor is participating in a University of Delaware laboratory science and research program where they may be exposed to or receive an injury from the hazardous materials or hazardous operations that occur in a laboratory. I understand the exposures and risks involved. Injuries to minors *properly* employed by the University will be handled through the Workers Compensation Program. The parent/legal guardian of minors not employed by the University will be responsible for all costs associated with an exposure or injury while working in the research setting. The University of Delaware is in no way responsible for these expenses.

All participants, including employees, students, volunteers, and visitors, will be informed of the hazards associated with their project(s), and will be trained in safe laboratory work practices.

The responsible researcher, _____,
(print the name of the Principal investigator/supervisor)

familiar with the project area, will supervise the participant and may be contacted at

_____ if you have questions.
(print the office or other contact number)

I _____ as parent/legal guardian of the minor named above
(print parent/guardian name)

hereby give my consent for him/her to participate in a laboratory program at the University of Delaware.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(parent/legal guardian)

The completed form, with signature, is to be retained by the laboratory department's administrative office. A copy of the form, with signatures, shall be provided to the parent or guardian. Send a copy of the completed and signed form to Environmental Health & Safety.

