



Policy 7.21 Minors in Laboratories at Emory University

Responsible Official: VP for Research Administration
Administering Division/Department: Research Compliance
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Overview

The purpose of this policy and procedure is to identify the requirements and conditions that must be met in order for certain minors to conduct research or participate in other activities in a laboratory at Emory University.

Applicability

This policy and procedure applies to the following persons:

Any person who has not attained 18 years of age and who is not enrolled in an Emory University or Oxford College regular catalog course or degree program. Throughout this policy and procedure, a person who meets this definition is referred to as a "Minor."

Different policies and procedures may apply to students who are enrolled in courses/programs or who are employees, and the appropriate schools or employing units should be consulted in order to determine what policies/procedures apply. Per Emory University Policy 4.12 "Employment of Minors," Emory University does not employ persons under 18 years of age.

The following is a non-exclusive list of the types of Minors to whom this policy applies:

Minors participating in science fair projects; Minors participating in science education programs that are not part of an Emory catalog course or degree program; and Minors involved in mentorship programs.

This policy and procedure applies to the following facilities:

Any Emory University or Oxford College laboratories, animal facilities, animal procedure rooms and animal housing areas.

Policy Details

Emory University desires to promote science and research education programs for Minors and to encourage mentor/mentee relationships between Emory researchers and young people interested in developing their scientific interests and research skills. Therefore, Minors may be permitted to participate in certain activities that take place in Emory laboratories, provided that certain requirements are met and certain prohibitions are not violated. This policy and procedure outlines the circumstances under which Minors are/are not permitted to participate in activities in a laboratory at Emory University.

- A. Minors may be permitted to work in certain laboratories at Emory provided that all of the following conditions are met and none of the prohibitions set forth in Sections B-D below are violated:

1. Each Minor must have a Principal Investigator/Sponsor. A Principal Investigator/Sponsor is a Emory University faculty member or full-time staff member who meets the following qualifications:
 - (a) is at least 18 years of age;
 - (b) has authority over the laboratory in which the Minor's activities are to take place; and
 - (c) agrees to supervise and be responsible for the Minor while the Minor is present in the laboratory and/or building in which the laboratory is located.
 2. A "MINOR'S REGISTRATION FORM" is submitted and approved by the Emory University Environmental Health and Safety Office (EHSO), and if animal research is involved, by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Included with this form is a "Potential Hazards Information Sheet," which requires the signature of a parent/guardian indicating he/she has been advised of any potential risks.
 3. As approved by EHSO, the Principal Investigator/Sponsor provides any hazard specific safety training to the Minor with regard to hazards the Minor may encounter within the laboratory in which the activities will take place.
 4. The Principal Investigator/Sponsor and Minor complete any safety training required by EHSO, and in the case of animal research, any training required by the IACUC, Department of Animal Resources (DAR) or the Yerkes National Primate Research Center (Yerkes).
 5. The Principal Investigator/Sponsor provides the Minor with hazard specific personal protective equipment, and instructs the Minor in its use and disposal.
 6. While within the laboratory, the Minor is never left alone and is supervised at all times by the Principal Investigator/Sponsor or by another responsible adult faculty or full-time staff member to whom the Principal Investigator/Sponsor has specifically delegated this responsibility.
 7. The laboratory/facility in which the Minor is to participate in activities must be in full compliance with all applicable Emory University safety programs and regulations.
 8. EHSO, and as applicable, IACUC inspections of the laboratory in which the Minor is to participate in activities must be current prior to any Minor initiating activity in the lab.
 9. All Minors and their Principal Investigators/Sponsors must adhere to all restrictions imposed by the EHSO, and if animal research is involved, by the IACUC.
 10. The Principal Investigator/Sponsor shall be responsible for obtaining any signatures, authorizations, inspections or training required under this Policy and Procedure prior to the time that the Minor begins activities in the laboratory.
 11. Additional Requirements for Animal Research: In addition to meeting the above requirements, in order to be involved Animal Research activities, the Minor must either be:
 - (a) a part of an educational program approved in advance by the Chair of the Emory University Department responsible for the facilities in which the Minor's activities will take place;
 - OR
 - (b) a mentee of an Emory faculty member who is in charge of the laboratory facilities in which the Minor's planned activities will be taking place.
- B. Even if all of the requirements in Section A are met, Minors are NOT permitted to participate in activities in the following laboratories:
1. Any laboratory or facility designated as BSL-3, ABSL-2 or 3, or higher, for recombinant or infectious organisms.
 2. Any laboratory or facility in which Select Agents or explosives are used or stored.
 3. Any laboratory using radioactive materials or working with animals that are injected with radioactive materials.
- C. Even if all of the requirements in Section A are met, Minors are prohibited from participating in activities in which any of the of the following materials are used:
1. Radioactive materials or radiation (X-rays).
 2. Acute Toxins
- D. Even if all of the requirements in Section A are met, if the Minor is under the age of 16 years, then the following additional prohibitions apply:
1. Minors under the age of 16 are prohibited from conducting activities in laboratories in which animal research is conducted, including any laboratory in which nonhuman primate tissue or fluids are processed or stored.
 2. Minors under the age of 16 are prohibited from entering an Emory animal housing facility, including any Yerkes or DAR animal housing facilities.

Related Links

- Current Version of This Policy: <http://policies.emory.edu/7.21>

Contact Information

Subject	Contact	Phone	Email
Clarification of this policy in regard to non-animal research.	Environmental Health & Safety	404-727-5922	patricia.olinger@emory.edu
Clarification of this policy in regard to animal research.	Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee	404-727-6212	larry.iten@emory.edu

Revision History

- Version Published on: Apr 01, 2009 (*Updated Applicability and Contact sections*)
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