Policy 7.21
Minors in Laboratories at Emory University

Responsible Official:  VP for Research Administration
Administering Division/Department: Research Compliance
Effective Date: March 31, 2009
Last Revision: July 06, 2018

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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;
- 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 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:

[Further details and conditions relating to the policy would be included here.]
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;
   (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](http://policies.emory.edu/7.21)

Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clarification of this policy in regard to non-animal research.</td>
<td>Environmental Health &amp; Safety</td>
<td>404-727-5922</td>
<td><a href="mailto:patricia.olinger@emory.edu">patricia.olinger@emory.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarification of this policy in regard to animal research.</td>
<td>Institutional Animal Care &amp; Use Committee</td>
<td>404-727-9510</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dwmarti@emory.edu">dwmarti@emory.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Revision History

- Version Published on: Jun 26, 2012
- Version Published on: Jun 26, 2012 (Updated Applicability and Contact sections)
- Version Published on: Apr 01, 2009 (Original Publication)

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