

## Minors and Visitors in the Lab

### Description

## MINORS IN THE LAB

Always consult with UF's [Youth Compliance Services](#) prior to engaging minors in any University activities.

Minors who are not enrolled at UF must meet the criteria outlined below to shadow or work in University of Florida research spaces including laboratories, greenhouses, clinics, or animal facilities. Minors are prohibited from operating farm machinery or state vehicles and from working in machine shops. The minor registration process is required for minors actively working or conducting research in a University of Florida research space. It is not required for short, guided tours of UF laboratories.

### PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES:

- Any laboratory or facility designated as BSL-3, ABSL-3, or higher for recombinant or infectious organisms.
- Any laboratory or facility where select agents or explosives are used or stored.
- Any area where gamma radiation is used.
- Minors are prohibited from working with Acute Toxins of biological origin.
- Minors are prohibited from operating farm machinery or state vehicles.

### ALLOWED ACTIVITIES:

Minors are allowed to work or conduct research in laboratories/facilities (not listed above) if the following requirements are met in full:

1. The University of Florida EH&S Policy titled [Minors In Research Laboratories, Clinic Areas Or Animal Facilities](#) has been read and understood.
2. A [Minors Registration Form](#) is submitted to and approved by the University of Florida, Division of Environmental Health and Safety, and, if applicable, the IBC, IACUC, and ACS. Included in this form is The Potential Hazards Information sheet which requires a parental /guardian signature indicating he/she has read of potential risks. The Registration Form must be approved prior to initiation of the work or research.
3. If the minor will be working with or observing work with animals, animal contact clearance must be obtained from the minor's personal healthcare provider. A separate form for animal contact clearance will be provided by EH&S during the review process.
4. Hazard specific safety training is completed by the Principal Investigator/Sponsor with the minor as approved by EH&S.
5. Personal protective equipment, specific to the hazard, is **required** with instructions for use and disposal.

6. The minor is supervised following [UF's Youth Compliance Services supervision requirements](#) while in the facility.
7. Hours of work comply with Federal Regulation 29 CFR 570.35.
8. The laboratory/facility is in full compliance with all applicable University of Florida safety programs and regulations.

[Minors Registration Form](#)

## VISITORS IN THE LAB

Visitations to laboratories must be under the direct supervision of a qualified faculty or staff member, part of a formally organized guided tour, or supervised educational program. The organizational unit chair/director, shop supervisor, or laboratory principal investigator bears primary responsibility for ensuring that visitors under their direct supervision are aware of the requirements and adhere to this policy.

Visits must be limited to less than two weeks in a six-month period. A visitor is defined as:

- Persons who are neither paid, regular members of UF faculty nor other full-time or part-time employees of UF, for instance, faculty visitors from other universities and research institutions, adjuncts;
- Visitors from business organizations and governmental entities;
- Temporary trainees.

Requirements for receiving/hosting a visitor in a research space include:

- Visitors must be always escorted by a qualified UF employee who has taken all required EH&S training.
- The host must provide a brief safety training covering hazards, control measures, rules, and expectations. This training shall be documented and kept in the hosts records for a minimum of 3 years.
- Visitors must adhere to appropriate attire, personal protective equipment requirements and follow all UF safety rules and regulations.
- If actively working or conducting experiments, visitors must sign the PARTICIPANT CONSENT, RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY. Waiver forms should be kept by the hosting faculty, unit or department for a minimum of 3 years.

[Participant Consent, Release, and Waiver of Liability](#)

If you have any questions, please contact [researchsafety@ehs.ufl.edu](mailto:researchsafety@ehs.ufl.edu).