



Department of Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety  
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**EOHS GUIDELINE: 13-001**  
**SUBJECT: Minors in Laboratories**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: June 1,  
2013 REVISED: 2016, 2025**

**GUIDELINE STATEMENT:** All employees and faculty are expected to adhere to the guidelines established below with respect to minors in laboratories.

**PURPOSE OF GUIDELINE:** To maintain a safe academic and research environment and comply with applicable health and safety regulations.

**APPLICABILITY OF THE POLICY:** This guideline applies to all University of Akron faculty, staff, students, visiting minors and their sponsors.

**GUIDELINES:**

Persons Affected:

- No person under the age of 14 may enter a University of Akron Laboratory, except for short term visits as part of a sponsored academic or educational outreach program. The visit must be supervised by an authorized University employee.
- Persons between the ages of 14 and 18 generally are not permitted access to hazardous chemical, biohazard or radiation handling laboratories. Exceptions may be permitted by the Dean of the College or authorized designate, if laboratory access is integral to a University of Akron sponsored academic program. Adequate adult supervision must be provided at all times by the organization sponsoring the program.
- The Dean of the College or authorized designate must approve all programs involving minors within the laboratories.
- The investigator responsible for the laboratory hosting programs involving minors shall ensure compliance with all safety policies, guidelines and regulations.
- The investigator for the hosting laboratory must ensure that Informed Consent and Emergency medical release forms have been completed prior to a minor participating in any laboratory activity.
- The investigator responsible for the hosting laboratory shall ensure that all visitors who may handle or be exposed to hazardous substances receive chemical safety/hazardous communications training. All visitors must be directly supervised by the investigator/researcher.
- The Department of Risk Management should be notified before the visit when access is provided to organized groups.
- The use of radioactive materials and radiation generating equipment, or exposure to ionizing radiation originating there from, is expressly prohibited for minors without the prior written permission of the University of Akron's Radiation Safety Officer or authorized designate.

Areas Affected:

- All laboratories.
- Rooms with unusual hazards, such as machine rooms, electrical rooms, machine shops and equipment rooms that are considered hazardous areas.
- Hallways or offices adjacent to laboratories are not considered hazardous; however, adult supervision is required for minors in those areas, because of the proximity to the laboratory and the potential for emergencies associated with laboratory work.

Enforcement:

As with all policies and guidelines affecting the use of hazardous materials, enforcement of these guidelines is the responsibility of the investigator responsible for the laboratory. Questions or concerns regarding compliance with this guideline should be referred to the Dean of the College responsible for the laboratory or building and the Director of Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety.

**CONTACTS:**

Questions related to the interpretation of this guideline should be directed to:

- Environmental Occupational Health and Safety (EOHS):

330-972-6866 or [eohs@uakron.edu](mailto:eohs@uakron.edu)

**DEFINITIONS:**

- Laboratory: means any building or part of a building used or intended to be used for scientific or technical work and that may be hazardous, including research, quality control, testing, teaching or analysis.
- Minor: means any person who has not attained the age of 18 years.

**Reviewed and Approved by:** Environmental Occupational Health and Safety

Office of Risk Management

Office of General Counsel

**Attachments:**

- Informed Consent and Medical Release