

Guidelines for Minors Working in Laboratories



*EH&S Fact Sheet
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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

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Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) has created this Fact Sheet to help address the numerous safety and legal concerns with the presence of minors in biology, chemistry, physics, and medical research laboratories. Please communicate plans to have minors in the lab to EH&S as soon as possible so that safety reviews can be completed and the necessary training arranged before the arrival of the minor student.

Overview

Please be aware that **no persons under the age of 16 (unless approved by risk management)** may enter a USC biology, chemistry, physics, or medical research laboratory unless they are participating

- As part of a group or individual educational program approved in advance by the Department or the Dean of the school or college where the program will take place;

OR

- As part of a relationship in which a USC faculty member or researcher is acting as a mentor to the young person. The young person will not be present in a USC laboratory for longer than the project takes each day. If you have questions about an individual activity, contact the Office of Environmental Health and Safety.

All persons under the age of 18 who enter a USC laboratory should complete the EH&S required safety training and are expected to be supervised at all times. All volunteers should complete the USC Volunteer Form. The form can be found at:

http://capsnet.usc.edu/EHS/index_cfm_MMtmp647a3480/VolunteerAgreement.pdf

USC faculty members sponsoring minors are responsible for obtaining all laboratory consent authorization forms required under these rules.

Additionally:

- All Radiation work must be pre-approved by the Radiation Safety Officer
- Projects can be reviewed by EH&S when in question
- Persons between the ages of 16 and 18, may not work in Biosafety 2+ labs

Please contact EH&S 213-740-6448 for more information.

EH&S Fact Sheets are intended to facilitate team discussions in your department. Post the monthly topic on your departmental bulletin board.