

Student Acknowledgement of Safety Hazards and Guidelines

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

To the Student

You are required to be familiar with the hazards that may be encountered in your courses and understand the safety precautions necessary to reduce those hazards. Specific information about the hazards associated with your courses will be provided by your instructor. By accepting this agreement, you attest that you have read and understand the hazard and safety information provided and avow your absolute willingness to abide by these precautions while you are in the laboratory or field.

All Laboratory and Field Courses

- Work only as authorized by your instructor. Do not perform unauthorized experiments.
- Maintain a professional demeanor during laboratory and field exercises. Do not run, engage in horse-play, or otherwise act recklessly.
- Purchase and wear safety goggles and other personal protective equipment as directed by your instructor.
- Learn emergency procedures and know the locations of the nearest first aid station, eye wash, fire extinguishers, and/or chemical cleanup materials.
- Carefully read all instructions and thoroughly plan your work.
- Wear appropriate clothing and secure-fitting, hard-soled, closed-toe shoes during all laboratory and field sessions. Confine long hair and remove dangling jewelry. Store personal items in the area designated by your instructor.
- Keep work areas neat, clean, and free of clutter.
- Do not eat, drink, use tobacco products, chew gum, apply cosmetics, or handle contact lenses in the laboratory.
- Do not use cell phones, computers, or other personal electronic devices during laboratory or field sessions unless asked to do so by your instructor.
- Notify your instructor immediately if any type of accident or emergency occurs.
- Notify your instructor immediately and seek appropriate medical treatment if you are injured during a laboratory or field exercise.

Courses with Chemical Hazards

- Carefully read all labels on chemical bottles and familiarize yourself with the number/color hazards codes. Never return excess chemicals to the stock bottles. Do not put a pipette or a dropper directly into a commercial stock reagent bottle. Instead, pour an aliquot of the reagent from the stock bottle into a beaker. Use premixed lab reagents as directed in the instructions for specific laboratory exercises.
- Never taste chemicals. Smell chemicals cautiously by wafting the vapors toward you.
- Point the test tube away from people when mixing or heating chemicals in a test tube.
- Do not use Bunsen burners or other sources of spark or flame in the vicinity of flammable liquids. Note that most organic solvents are flammable.
- Dispose of all acidic solutions by pouring them into the acid-neutralization container, and all alkaline solutions in the alkali-neutralization container.
- Always add the acid to the water, not vice-versa, when mixing acid and water.
- Fill a pipette by using a pipette bulb or mechanical pipettor only; never pipette by mouth.

- Dispose of chemicals as directed by your instructor and in a manner consistent with federal, state and local hazardous waste disposal regulations. Organic solvents are never to be disposed of down the sink; receptacles will be provided as needed for their collection.
- Notify your instructor immediately if a spill or accident occurs.
- Notify your instructor immediately and seek appropriate medical treatment if you are injured during a laboratory session.

Courses with Field Hazards

- Be watchful during field sessions for hazards such as uneven soil surfaces, roots and other trip hazards, steep terrain and depressions, poison ivy, fire ants, bees, wasps, snakes, etc.
- Stay with the class group at all times unless directed to do otherwise by your instructor.
- Dress appropriately for bright sun or inclement weather conditions. Apply water-resistant sunscreen prior to field exercises.
- Do not operate power equipment unless asked to do so by the instructor.
- Notify your instructor of any known allergies to insect bites or other plants or animals that may be encountered in the field before field exercises.
- Notify your instructor immediately and seek appropriate medical treatment if you are injured during field exercises.

Courses with Live Animals

- Consider all animals potentially dangerous.
- Treat animals with respect. Be patient when working with animals. Move slowly and deliberately and avoid loud noises and quick movements. Avoid prodding, shoving, or hitting an animal.
- Be able to recognize signs of agitation and fear. If you have questions about an animal's disposition, avoid contact with the animal and consult your instructor.
- Do not handle or enter enclosed quarters with animals unless directed to do so by your instructor. Maintain an escape route when working in close quarters with animals.
- Maintain a safe distance from large animals and be watchful for kicking or other sudden movements.
- Maintain good sanitary practices: wash hands frequently and follow any other specific practices as directed by your instructor.
- Notify your instructor before class activities if you have allergies that impact your ability to work with animals.
- Notify your instructor immediately and seek appropriate medical treatment if you are injured while working with animals.

Courses with Mechanical and Electrical Hazards

- Know the hazards associated with your work. Be sure you are fully educated on the proper use and operation of all tools and equipment before beginning your assignment.
- Know the location and proper operation of shut-off switches, circuit breaker panels, fire extinguishers, and first aid stations.
- Make sure all tools and equipment are in good condition and are properly grounded. Notify your instructor of any equipment that appears to be damaged.

- Use personal protective equipment (goggles, gloves, aprons, etc.) as directed by your instructor.
- Leave tool and equipment guards in place. Leave in place and utilize all shielding on tools and equipment.
- Minimize the potential for water or chemical spills on or near electrical equipment.
- Maintain good housekeeping standards. Keep the work area free from slipping/tripping hazards (oil, cords, debris, etc.). Remove sawdust, wood chips, and metal chips regularly. Return tools to their appropriate storage location after use.
- Notify your instructor immediately if an accident occurs.
- Notify your instructor immediately and seek appropriate medical treatment if you are injured while using mechanical or electrical tools and equipment.

Course with Biological Hazards

- Treat all biological materials as if they were known to be pathogenic and practice proper aseptic techniques.
- Maintain good sanitary practices: wash hands frequently, do not pipette by mouth, and follow specific practices as directed by your instructor.
- Properly dispose of biological wastes as directed by your instructor.
- Use personal protective equipment (goggles, lab coats, gloves, face shields, etc.) as directed by your instructor.
- Use engineering controls (biosafety cabinets, ventilation systems, etc.) as directed by your instructor.
- Notify your instructor immediately if a spill or accident occurs.
- Notify your instructor immediately and seek appropriate medical treatment if you are injured while using biological materials.

Courses with Radiological Hazards

- Treat all potentially radioactive materials as dangerous.
- Maintain good sanitary practices: wash hands and monitor clothing for contamination after each procedure and before leaving the area, do not pipette by mouth, follow all additional sanitation practices identified by your instructor.
- Use personal protective equipment (goggles, lab coats, gloves, etc.) as directed by your instructor.
- Use remote handling tools, shielding, and engineering controls (safety interlocks, containments, etc.) as directed by your instructor.
- Store radioactive waste only in specially designated and appropriately shielded receptacles in a secured area.
- Transport radioactive materials in appropriately closed and shielded containers.
- Notify your instructor immediately if a spill or accident occurs.
- Notify your instructor immediately and seek appropriate medical attention if you are injured or exposed while using radioactive materials.

I have read carefully and understand all of the safety rules contained in this document. I also agree to read all rules for specific exercises required for this course. I agree to completely follow instructions provided for appropriate personal protective equipment and other safety precautions to be taken during all laboratory and field sessions. I recognize that it is my responsibility to obey them faithfully.

I understand that my adherence to the safety rules will be reflected in the grade I receive for this course. The consequence for not following the instructions of the laboratory session or failure to adhere to the safety rules may result in immediate dismissal from the laboratory period and a grade of zero given for that session.

I FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT I AM PERMITTED TO WORK IN THE LABORATORY ONLY WHEN IT IS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A LABORATORY INSTRUCTOR, UNLESS SPECIFICALLY INFORMED OTHERWISE.