

University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV)

Student Laboratory Safety Contract

Purpose:

Safety in the laboratory is a top priority at UNLV. Science laboratories involve hands-on participation of all students. You may be doing experiments that involve various hazardous materials (chemical, biological, electrical, etc.). Therefore, the following contract has been developed so that students understand their responsibilities as they relate to safety in the laboratory.

General Safety Rules:

1. Never work in the laboratory without supervision of your laboratory instructor. Always follow instructions given by your laboratory instructor or lab manual.
2. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times as detailed by your laboratory instructor. This may include goggles, safety glasses, gloves, laboratory coats, etc.
3. Wear appropriate clothing for experimentation as specified by your laboratory instructor. This may include long pants or skirts, closed-toed shoes and long sleeves. Ensure that long hair or jewelry is secured when working with any equipment that has a possible physical hazard.
4. Food, gum, drinks, cosmetics and tobacco products are not allowed in the laboratory. This includes drinking water. If a food or drink container is empty or unopened store it inside a backpack out of sight.
5. Do not attempt any unauthorized experiments. "Simple" chemicals may produce extremely undesirable results when mixed.
6. The removal of any equipment or hazardous materials from the laboratory is strictly prohibited and is grounds for severe disciplinary action. The exception to this rule is take-home projects in which your laboratory instructor disburses the required materials.
7. Horseplay and pranks have no place in the laboratory. They are grounds for removal of students from the laboratory.
8. Laboratory equipment including Bunsen burners and other heating devices should be handled with extreme care. Your laboratory instructor will demonstrate safe usage of these pieces of equipment. Do not attempt to use this equipment if you do not completely understand the safe procedures for usage.
9. Locate the fire alarm pull station and fire extinguisher. Know your route of egress in case of a fire alarm.
10. Locate your eyewash and/or safety shower and know how to use them.
11. Read all safety precautions on labels. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are available for all chemicals used in the laboratory. Know where to find MSDS and review it prior to using any chemical. It is your responsibility to understand the hazards of the materials that you will be using. If you have a question about hazards ask your instructor.
12. If you have a chemical spill, wash it off immediately for at least 15 minutes utilizing the eyewash, safety shower or sink. Immediately notify your instructor so that they may assist with obtaining medical assistance and cleaning up the spill.
13. All laboratory materials must be cleaned up and put away at the end of the laboratory session. Students must leave the work area clean and dry.
14. All waste materials **MUST** be disposed of in the manner designated by the instructor.
15. All classroom accidents/injuries must be reported to the laboratory instructor immediately.
16. Be extremely careful when utilizing sharps. Dispose of all sharps in an appropriate sharp's container.
17. Pets and minors (children) are not allowed in the laboratories.
18. Wash your hands often and prior to leaving the laboratory.

