

High School Students in SIUC Laboratories

Southern Illinois University Carbondale acknowledges that there are valid reasons for minors to be sometimes present in university work areas. A minor is defined as anyone under the age of 18 years. Due to the concerns related to potential exposures to physical, chemical, radioactive, and biological hazards, particularly in the research laboratories, the following guidelines are necessary to ensure that potential exposures are minimized.

Although everyone in the laboratory is responsible for safety and health, those who best understand the hazards of the lab must take the lead. Professors and Teaching Assistants must insure that physical facilities, apparatus, experiments, and reagents pose no undue risk to the students who will visit and possibly work in the labs. The lab instructor must establish appropriate rules of procedure, housekeeping, dress, and general behavior and enforce them consistently and impartially.

The Center for Environmental Health and Safety recommends that only students 16 to 18 years of age be allowed to visit or work in research laboratories. They must be participating in a University sponsored event or volunteer program to be permitted to work in or observe work in the laboratory. Students under the age of 16 are not permitted to work or observe work in any laboratory. This is due to greater restrictions placed on 14 and 15 year old students by Federal and State laws. The intent and practice of sponsoring a volunteer in a laboratory must be to provide the volunteer with an educational experience.

It must be ensured that the underage worker has received the appropriate instruction, has parental consent, and will not be allowed to take part in any operations that are a violation of the myriad of Illinois child labor regulations.

Faculty Sponsorship: The student must be sponsored by a member of Southern Illinois University Carbondale faculty. This faculty sponsor is responsible for ensuring that the student's activities are supervised closely.

Parental Consent: The student's parent or guardian must complete a Parental Consent Statement and Insurance Documentation form from University Risk Management and submit it to the sponsoring faculty.

Laboratory Safety Approval: The sponsoring faculty must submit a proposal for the high school student to conduct research or work in a laboratory or work area. Once the Department Chair has approved and signed the proposal, the sponsoring faculty should contact the Center for Environmental Health and Safety to review the proposal for clarification and modification regarding lab safety and safety training.

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