

Policy on Minors (Not Acting as Students/Employees) in Research Spaces (Laboratories, Clinics, Animal Facilities and Field Research)

1. APPLICABILITY

The UGA [Policy for Programs and Activities Serving Minors](#) provides the overarching standards for programs involving non-student, non-employee minors at UGA. As stated in Section III.A.8. of that policy, this Policy on Minors (Not Acting as Students/Employees) in Research Laboratories, Clinics, and Animal Facilities (the “Policy”) adds additional requirements when these Minors are accessing UGA Laboratories and other Research Spaces where hazards may be present.

2. DEFINITIONS

1. “Minor” means any person under 18 years of age [O.C.G.A. §39-1-1](#), except for current UGA students and employees.
2. “Faculty Supervisor” is the University faculty member who supervises the Minor in a particular Research Space.
3. “Research Space” means any University Laboratory, Greenhouse, Clinic Space, Machine Shop, Restricted Animal Space, or Field Research.

4. “Laboratory” means a location intended for scientific experiments where hazardous chemicals, biological agents, equipment, or biological samples may be present.
5. “Greenhouse” means a location intended to grow plants where hazardous chemicals, biological agents, or equipment may be present.
6. “Clinic Space” means a location devoted to the diagnosis, treatment, and care of patients on an in-patient, outpatient, or day-care basis.
7. “Restricted Animal Space” means any location under the control of University Research Animal Resources where research animals are maintained.
8. “Machine Shop” means a location where machining tools and/or cutting tools are used to make parts out of metal, glass, or wood.
9. “Field Research” means research at a location outside a laboratory, library or workplace setting. Typical examples are natural environments such as parks, forests, farms, bodies of water, and archeological sites.

3. POLICY

1. Minors are prohibited from accessing the following Research Spaces or similar spaces for any reason:
 1. Any Research Space designated as BSL-2+ or higher for recombinant or infectious organisms (researchers should contact the Office of Biosafety with any questions regarding interpretation of their laboratory’s biosafety level designation);

2. Any Research Space where select agents or explosives are used or stored;
and
 3. Any Restricted Animal Space.
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2. Minors are prohibited from operating or making any use of:
 1. Radioactive materials or instruments that generate ionizing radiation (i.e. X-rays or electron microscopes);
 2. Particularly Hazardous Substances as defined by OSHA Laboratory Standard [29 CFR § 1910.1450](#);
 3. Pyrophoric substances; and
 4. University farm machinery or state vehicles.
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3. Except as prohibited in Sections 3.1. and 3.2. above, Minors may access Research Spaces, and use equipment from those spaces, subject to the following requirements:
 1. Approval must be obtained per Section 3.4. below.
 2. Minors must always be supervised while in any Research Space. The intensity of the supervision is expected to increase with increased risk (i.e., spaces containing Class 3B or Class 4 lasers). Either the Faculty Supervisor must personally supervise, or the Faculty Supervisor may delegate responsibility to an appropriately trained individual, and in those cases, the Faculty Supervisor remains responsible for the delegate's supervision.
 3. The Faculty Supervisor must provide the Minor with, and the Minor must wear, personal protective equipment specific to any hazard in the Research Space. The Faculty Supervisor shall provide the Minor with instructions for proper use of and disposal of protective equipment.
 4. The Minor's hours of work must comply with [29 CFR 570.35](#)

4. **Before a Minor may access any Research Space or utilize any equipment from those spaces, the following procedures must be followed:**
 1. The Faculty Supervisor must (i) initiate an approval request by filling out the [Minor's Research Access Form](#), which collects key information about the Minor, the Research Space, and the Minor's reason for access; and (ii) forward it to the Office of Research Safety.
 2. The Office of Research Safety shall review the form, and if approved, have it executed by the Faculty Supervisor, the Minor, and the Minor's parent/guardian.
 3. Copies of the completed form must be provided to the Minor's parent/guardian and be maintained by the Office of Research Safety, the Faculty Supervisor, and, if applicable, by the office of the Program/Activity Administrator (as defined by the Policy for Programs and Activities Serving Minors), for example, the administrator of the *Young Dawgs* program.
 4. The Minor must complete any necessary hazard-specific safety training required by the Faculty Supervisor or the Office of Research Safety, and the Faculty Supervisor must provide documentation of completion to the Office of Research Safety.
 5. The Minor must obtain any required occupational health and safety services from the Minor's primary care physician. If occupational health services are required for UGA employees in the Research Space, they will be required for the Minor participant.