

## LABORATORY SAFETY REGULATIONS

1. **DO NOT ENTER THE LAB AREA** unless your instructor is present. Research students must be supervised by either their faculty advisor or a designated department staff member.
2. **BE AWARE** of any special health or safety hazards posed by the chemicals with which you are working. Obtain and read MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets) for all employed reagents prior to working with them in lab, and consult your instructor with any questions or concerns you may have. Many MSDS can be found online (see your lab instructor/research supervisor for assistance).
3. **PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR**, either safety goggles or safety glasses with side shields, must be worn at all times in the lab, even if an experiment is not in progress. Students are responsible for purchase of this eyewear (the UNCP bookstore stocks safety goggles and glasses). Contact lenses **should not** be worn in lab.
4. **APPROPRIATE CLOTHING** that covers you from your shoulders to your ankles, and closed shoes with socks, are strongly encouraged. In general, the more skin covered the better. Laboratory coats provide additional protection to your body and your clothing and are recommended (students are responsible for purchase of lab coats). Long hair should be pulled back and held securely away from the face. Bulky and hanging jewelry should be removed.
5. **USE OF HEADPHONES / EARBUDS** is prohibited as such prevents the lab worker from being fully aware of his/her surroundings.
6. **SAFETY EQUIPMENT** (fire extinguishers, fire blankets, safety showers, eyewash stations, fume hoods, snorkel exhausts) is located throughout the laboratory. Consult your instructor/advisor if you are unfamiliar with the location or operation of any safety equipment.
7. **WORKING IN THE LAB UNDER THE INFLUENCE** of alcohol or drugs, including certain prescription and over-the-counter pharmaceuticals that may impair motor function and/or judgment, constitutes a safety hazard to both you and your labmates and is strictly prohibited.
8. **AVOID INHALING VAPORS** of any kind by performing as much work as possible under operating hoods. Use the hoods to perform any reactions involving toxic, irritating, or otherwise dangerous chemicals or unpleasant odors. When a procedure calls for testing the odor of a gaseous substance, gently waft the substance toward your nose with your hand (never place a container directly beneath your nose!)
9. **INFORM YOUR INSTRUCTOR/ADVISOR IMMEDIATELY OF ACCIDENTS**, no matter how minor you judge them to be. Do not clean up broken glassware or chemical spills until directed by your instructor/advisor.
10. **CONDUCT ALL EXPERIMENTAL WORK IN A PROFESSIONAL MANNER**, and never deviate from the written procedure unless directed by your instructor. Never work without your instructor present. Research students should consult his/her faculty advisor for assistance with and/or approval of any nonstandard lab procedures.
11. **NEVER PUT ANYTHING IN YOUR MOUTH** while in the laboratory, i.e., no eating, drinking, tasting chemicals, pipetting by mouth, etc. Food and beverages are not allowed in the laboratory.
12. **INFORM YOUR INSTRUCTOR/ADVISOR IF YOU ARE OR THINK YOU MAY BE PREGNANT**, as some chemicals, particularly those used in upper level labs, are thought to pose special and continuing risks to the fetus, including birth defects and death.
13. **DISPOSE OF CHEMICAL WASTE** only as specified by your instructor/advisor. Never dispose of substances in the sink or wastebasket unless your instructor/advisor specifically directs you to do so.
14. **SCRUPULOUSLY CLEAN YOUR WORK AREA AND YOUR HANDS** after completing lab work. It is especially important to wash your hands after leaving lab to prevent transfer of chemicals to other, more sensitive parts of the body. If you take a break during the lab period, be sure to wash your hands **BEFORE** you use the rest room.