

Laboratory Personnel Assumption of Risk and Acceptance of Safety Procedures

There are certain risks and exposures that you will be assuming when you are a student in this course. You are responsible for observing both universal safety precautions and specific safety guidance when working in a George Mason University laboratory. By signing this document, you acknowledge the risks and agree to observe the prescribed safety procedures.

1. There is an inherent danger when working in any laboratory. Laboratory hazards that you may be exposed to include but are not limited to toxics, flammables (including explosives), corrosives (acids and basics), oxidizers, radioactives, loud noises, animal dandruff, sharp surfaces, noxious odors, and ultraviolet light. In addition, there are the hazards of the laboratory itself: glass containers, scalding water, centrifuges, Bunsen burners, and sharp objects. Although the University complies with all applicable Local, State, and Federal regulations, and attempts to ensure its laboratories are as safe as possible, students must maintain a continual vigilance when working in a laboratory.

2. Persons who suffer allergic reactions, are pregnant, have sensitive skin, or have other medical issues must make these concerns known to the instructor. Material Safety Data Sheet(s) (MSDS) for the hazardous materials used in the laboratory are available for review via your instructor.

3. Universal Safety Precautions: (a) Wear eye protection (e.g. goggles or mask) at all times when working in the chemistry laboratory and at other times when handling particulates or liquids that might splash, (The wearing of contact lenses is strongly discouraged), (b) Wear clothing that covers arms, legs, and feet. (c) Long hair must be tied back, (d) Maintain a state of personal cleanliness and immediately wash off any chemicals or other hazardous material that comes in contact with your body, (e) Keep the benches and aisles free of unnecessary items, (f) Do not smoke, eat, drink, apply cosmetics, or chew gum in the laboratory, (g) The laboratory refrigerator must be used for only laboratory supplies and experiments, not for personal food or beverages, (h) Only perform laboratory experiments that you have been authorized to perform and that you are competent to do, (i) Hazardous material containers must be labeled and properly stored when left unattended, and (j) In the event of an accident, participate in first-aid and clean-up only to the limit of your training and capability.

4. Respond promptly to all injuries and emergencies: (a) Know the location of the fire extinguisher, emergency showers and eyewashes, fire blankets, the fire alarm, and the means of egress, (b) In the event of strange odors, fumes, and sounds; report them to the instructor as soon as they are noticed, (c) Be aware of other activities in the laboratory, both to render assistance and to safeguard yourself in the event of a mishap, and (d) Follow the directions of the instructor.

5. Additional specific safety instructions and/or MSDSs for this course are attached:

YES NO (Circle as appropriate)

Course #: _____

Instructor: _____

I _____ (Print Name) have read the above and agree to accept and comply with them.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

(Parent or Guardian must sign approval if participant is under 18 years old)