

MTSU Biology Student Safety Contract for Laboratory Research

Research Advisor/Mentor/Supervisor: _____

To ensure an understanding of concepts and the safe execution of experiments in a research laboratory, it is essential that you follow the health and safety rules of proper laboratory conduct.

Initial after you read and understand each item

- The consumption of food or drinks is **NOT** allowed in any Biology laboratory at any time. ____
- The use of **all** tobacco products (including e-cigs) is not allowed in the laboratory at any time. ____
- Chewing gum or the application of cosmetics is not allowed in the laboratory at any time. ____
- Closed shoes that completely cover the foot are always required of everybody working in any lab. Open toed shoes, such as sandals and flip-fops are not allowed. ____
- Any personnel working with potentially hazardous agents in a MTSU Biology research laboratory must observe the following dress requirements to ensure their safety:

A closed shirt that covers the upper arms, stomach and lower back. Sleeveless tee (T-) shirts, tank tops and meshed shirts are not permitted.

Pants, dresses, shorts or skirts that cover the knees when sitting.

If a person's shirt and pants, dress, shorts or skirt does not meet the MTSU Biology research laboratory dress code for working with potentially hazardous agents, a laboratory coat can be worn over their existing attire.

The principal investigator of the laboratory will provide laboratory coats and other appropriate safety attire, including safety glasses and gloves to provide the proper protection for personnel working with potentially hazardous agents. ____

- Long hair must be tied back to avoid contact with flames of burners and potentially infectious or otherwise hazardous materials. ____
- Coats, backpacks, and other personal items are to be stored away from the work area. Keep only those items on the lab bench that are needed to perform experiments. ____
- Appropriate gloves and eye protection must be worn when working with hazardous materials and removed before exiting the laboratory. ____
- Clean the lab bench with disinfectant (microbiology) before you begin work and again before leaving the laboratory. ____
- Hands and arms should be thoroughly washed with soap and water prior to leaving the laboratory, including leaving for breaks. ____
- Sharps (i.e. razor blades, broken glass) should be used with extreme caution and must be deposited in appropriate containers. ____

- Be familiar with procedures and locations to properly dispose of hazardous and infectious wastes. ____
- Cultures, slides, or other biologically active materials may not be taken from the laboratory without following additional, specific safety measures documented by your lab supervisor. ____
- Please obtain prior permission from the appropriate University authority for any adult (≥ 18 yrs) visitors to the laboratory. No children (< 18 yrs) are allowed in the laboratory unless they are in compliance with MTSU Policy 101 “Minors Participating in University-Sponsored Programs or Programs Using University Facilities”. ____
- Students are required to report all spills to the professor immediately. Treat all spilled chemicals or cultures as though they are hazardous/pathogenic. ____
- Report any injury to your professor immediately. ____
- Become familiar with the locations of all safety aids (eyewash and shower stations, first-aid kit, emergency door lock button, and emergency gas shut-off button), along with when and how to properly use them. ____
- I understand that it is my responsibility to read the Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) **before** I handle any chemicals and/or specimens and follow the recommendations for safe handling of the specific chemical and/or specimen. ____
- You are required to follow all of the directives in this contract with or without accommodations. If accommodations are needed for you to meet any of the above requirements, please contact the MTSU Disability and Access Center (DAC) at office phone 615-898-2783 or by email at dacemail@mtsu.edu. ____
- It is the responsibility of anyone that may have a compromised immune system (including, but not limited to, undergoing chemotherapy, pregnancy, HIV/AIDS positive, coronavirus, taking medications for immunomodulatory treatment of lupus, multiple sclerosis, and sickle cell disease) to discuss laboratory activities and organisms used with their physician. If your physician has concerns about your participation in this laboratory and you decide or intend to participate in research, a waiver of liability must be completed. ____

The rules of laboratory conduct are for your safety and that of other students and laboratory personnel. I, the undersigned, have read the above rules, and agree to observe and abide by them. I understand that failure to do so can result in dismissal from MTSU, the course, if it is associated with my research, and/or a reduction in my course grade.

PRINT NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____