

Safety Practices for Ocean Science Laboratory

The science laboratory is a fun place to work and study. But there are safety and courtesy guidelines that you must follow to make everyone's laboratory experience both enjoyable and safe.

1. Follow all written and verbal instructions carefully. When the professor is explaining laboratory concepts and procedures, pay attention and desist from distracting behaviors. You must give laboratory procedures your full interest, attention, and effort.
2. Whether or in the lab room or on field trips, students must conduct themselves in an appropriate and responsible manner. Running, shouting, and horsing around are not acceptable.
3. Prepare for the laboratory activity each week by checking your syllabus for the activity, time, and location, and (if applicable), completing the **pre-lab exercise** that is due.
4. Place books, backpacks, and other bulky items in out-of-the-way areas of the lab room. Do not block floors, aisles, and walkways with these objects.
5. Appropriate clothing must be worn for laboratory activities. Long necklaces, bulky jewelry, or excessively baggy clothing are discouraged in the lab room. Long hair must be tied back anytime glassware or chemicals are present. Close-toed shoes are recommended for all lab activities, and absolutely required for some (see your syllabus).
6. Keep track of which lab days involve field trips, check the weather that day, and come dressed with appropriate clothing and footwear. In the event of a possible weather cancellation for a field trip, check Blackboard and/or your email by 12:30pm on the day of the trip. The professor will contact you only in the event of cancellation/rescheduling; otherwise you should assume that the trip is on.
7. You are responsible for arriving at field trips on time and prepared. Coming to a field trip is no different than coming to the lab classroom—it's just lab in a different location. Lab activities on field trip days begin and end at the field trip location.
8. Be respectful of, and careful with, laboratory equipment and materials. Many students use these materials. The equipment and materials that you will use this semester are in good condition only because previous students used them with care.
9. When working with chemical solutions, treat all solutions as potentially hazardous, and follow all instructions carefully.
10. Report any accident or injury to the professor immediately. Report any broken or damaged equipment, or other potential hazards, as well.
11. If your skin and/or clothes are burned by a chemical spill, rinse the area immediately with plenty of running water. If your eyes are affected, immediately go to the eyewash station and rinse your eyes thoroughly.
12. Know the locations of laboratory sinks, exits, eyewash station, first aid kit, and fire extinguisher.