Major safety concerns are listed below, but others may arise; if so, consult with your instructor or course coordinator.

Everyone involved with the teaching of laboratories is required to attend announced training sessions; to possess knowledge of protocol for preventing, treating, and reporting laboratory-related injuries; and to be familiar with simple emergency first aid methods and emergency evacuation procedures, in accordance with departmental and University guidelines and rules.

Laboratory instructors, departmental staff, laboratory supervisors, and course coordinators are all responsible for the enforcement of course, departmental and University safety standards. The interpretation of the rules to be followed by everyone are to be the interpretations of the course coordinator and the departmental administration. Any time after the first session of the semester, anyone who does not comply with the safety regulations will, without further warning, be prevented from remaining in the laboratory or laboratory area.

In coordinated courses, it is the TA's responsibility to conduct the lab as presented by the laboratory textbook being used and the course coordinator. It is the students' responsibility to conduct the experimentation as presented by the laboratory textbook being used and/or the instructions given by the TA. If there are practices that one believes to be unsafe, they should be brought to the attention of the instructor, the faculty supervisor, or course coordinator, but no one is to modify the experiment unless directed to do so by the course coordinator.

PERSONAL PROTECTION

Supervision

Never work in a chemical laboratory without proper supervision. Your best protection against accidents is the presence of a trained, conscientious supervisor who is watching for potentially dangerous situations.

Eye Protection

In the teaching laboratories, safety goggles of an approved type must be worn by all persons in the room at all times that anyone is working with or transporting glassware or conducting any experimental work. Experimental work includes many simple tasks such as transporting chemicals, cleaning glassware or work area, obtaining quantitative measurements that involve chemicals, etc. Light-weight “visitors' shields” or prescription glasses with side shields are not suitable for use in the instructional laboratories.

Protective Clothing

Proper protective clothing must be worn by all persons in the room at all times that anyone is working with or transporting glassware or conducting any experimental work. Exposed skin is particularly susceptible to injury by splattering of hot, caustic, or flammable materials. Students and instructors must be protected from their necks to below their knees. This requirement means no shorts, no short skirts, no sleeveless garments, and no bare mid-riffs. Long lab coats or aprons are required if shorts or short skirts are worn. Makeshift coverage such as shirts being used as aprons, paper taped over the knees, etc., is not acceptable. Tight-fitting clothing, long unrestrained hair, clothing that contains excessive fringe or even overly loose-fitting clothing may be ruled to be unsafe.

Protective Footwear

No sandals, no open-toed shoes, and no foot covering with absorbent soles are allowed. Any foot protection that exposes any part of one's toes is unsuitable for wear in the laboratory.

BIOSAFETY

Bunsen burner

Correct and safe use of bunsen burners will be demonstrated by the tutor. Be aware of burning burner by noting a hollow burning sound and/or the absence of a blue cone of unburnt gas.

Pipetting

Pipetting by mouth is prohibited.

Food and Drinks in the Labs

Food and drinks are never allowed in the labs. No exception.

No Unauthorized Experiments

“Simple” chemicals may produce undesired results when mixed. Any experimentation not required by the laboratory manual or approved by your instructor is considered to be unauthorized experimentation.

Removal of Chemicals and Equipment from the Laboratory

The removal of any chemicals, biological samples and/or equipment from the laboratory is strictly prohibited and is grounds for severe disciplinary action.