

Lab Safety Guidelines

Complete guidelines for chemical safety at AU is found in the Chemical Safety Guide. Chapter 13 of this Safety Guide specifically addresses the teaching labs on the Summerville campus:

<http://augusta.edu/services/ehs/chemsafe/clsprog.php>

Clothing and PPE for Teaching and Research labs

You must have appropriate clothing to enter any chemistry lab, regardless of type of chemicals in use:

- Shirt and pants/dress/skirt must fully cover body from shoulders to top of shoes. Your legs/feet should have no exposed skin nor poorly protected skin (i.e. skin protected by only socks is insufficient)
- Exposed clothing must be suitably protective against chemical spills. Socks, tights, or leggings are not considered sufficiently protective.
- Shoes must completely cover foot. No open toe shoes. The top of the shoe must cover foot to ankle to be covered by pants/dress/skirt.
- A laboratory coat is required to work in any of the laboratories.

When chemicals are in use in the lab, you must have appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). This includes:

- Safety eyewear of either goggles or safety glasses with side shields. Glasses without side shields is insufficient. Wear eyewear properly at all times.
- Other PPE as appropriate for the chemicals in use, such as gloves.
- Do not wear gloves or lab coats outside of lab.
- Avoid loose clothing and jewellery that may interfere with lab work and/or be damaged by chemicals.
- Confine long hair.

Other rules:

No food, drink or food/drink containers, even empty ones or sealed ones, may be brought into any lab. All chemical containers in the lab must be labelled with the contents unless they are involved in uninterrupted use and supervised at all times. Waste must be collected and labelled according to regulations. No hazardous activities may be carried out alone in the lab. Report all accidents, injuries, spills, and breakages to the instructor immediately. Do not chew gum or apply cosmetics in lab. The laboratory and your workspace must be clean and free of clutter at the conclusion of every lab session.

Research labs

Research students must complete the appropriate laboratory safety training. Laboratory coats are a minimum standard in any research lab. Specialized training is required prior to handling certain chemicals or for certain procedures. The faculty mentor can provide information concerning requirements for the research labs.

Updated May, 2020