

NIH's Student Laboratory Safety Program

Welcome

This program is the only safety training course specifically designed and developed for researchers, who have not completed an undergraduate degree, working in biomedical laboratories at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Goals

- To provide students with the knowledge of a broad range of safety topics applicable to a biomedical research facility in a hands-on lab environment.
- To foster critical thinking and problem solving skills vital to potential hazard recognition and accident prevention through mock learning scenarios and challenges.
- To learn how important it is to stop, think, and apply safe laboratory practices when working at the NIH.

Training

To accomplish these training goals, the program is organized into two separate, but related, components.

1. Computer-based Introductory Safety training (**REQUIRED** for first time students only). Laboratory Safety Refresher is required annually.
2. “Learn-by-Doing” training (**REQUIRED** for all researchers new to the NIH, that have not completed an undergraduate degree).

*Certain work requires Blood Borne Pathogen (BBP) training.

To register, visit: <https://www.safetytraining.nih.gov>

Special Note

Young researchers must complete required training prior to working in the laboratory with potentially hazardous materials. Please see **MC 3015** for details on work permission applicable to minors. Training can be completed after initial assignment at the NIH if supervisors ensure employees do not work with potentially hazardous materials prior to training.

Program Components

1. Computer-based Training. Laboratory Safety Training Course: Introduction to Laboratory Safety

All new staff working in an NIH laboratory are required to complete this computer-based training course. It provides an overview of basic laboratory safe practices and introduction to common chemical, biological, and physical hazards.

Upon completion of this course, please print the training certificate for your records.

2. “Learn-by-Doing” Training

This course is taught by occupational safety and health professionals who have practical working laboratory experience.

A broad range of laboratory safety topics will be covered including, but not limited to: the principles of biosafety; chemical handling and use; common laboratory hazards; and emergency preparedness.

The learning objectives will be met through active dialogue between students and instructors. Students will work in small groups with an instructor to practice and learn safe laboratory techniques, as well as the rules of safe conduct. Students and teachers will problem solve and challenge critical thinking skills together through a series of learning exercises.

To demonstrate material comprehension, students must complete a quiz. An 85% minimum passing grade is required. If a student requires additional instruction due to a low quiz score, they will receive additional one-on-one instruction to ensure course completion and success.