Restrictions for Minors in Research

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| Minors in Research All proposals for minors volunteering in a laboratory or research setting must first be approved through the [Youth Program Compliance Office](https://universityethics.psu.edu/our-expertise/youth-programs/ypc_resources). Proposals can be submitted with the Single Participant Youth Program Registration Form and must include a risk assessment that details the work performed by the minor and any hazards to which it may be exposed. Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) conducts a review of proposals to verify that the work is appropriate and that steps have been taken to keep students safe.  Employment of Minors will be handled through the Human Resource Department and must comply with [PSU HR02 Employment of Minors](https://policy.psu.edu/policies/hr02) policy.  To protect their health and safety, minors are restricted from work involving certain hazardous materials. Below is a list of restricted materials at Penn State University. |

# Chemical Hazards

* Any material for which a single or repeated exposure to this material/chemical may cause significant, life-threatening, or permanent damage to health. This includes compounds having an LD50 less than or equal to 50mg/Kg.
* Materials that can ignite if exposed to high temperatures or heated for a short period. Included liquids with a flashpoint between 73⁰F and 100⁰F and flammable liquids with a flashpoint under 73⁰F and a boiling point above 100⁰F.
* Materials that are unstable and form explosive compounds if exposed to water, decomposing, polymerizing, self-reacting, or undergoing another change, even under normal temperatures and pressures.
* Materials that may form explosive mixtures with water and are capable of detonation or explosive reaction in the presence of a strong initiating source. May polymerize, decompose, self-react, or undergo other chemical change at normal temperature or pressure with moderate risk of explosion.
* Perchloric acid, Hydrofluoric acid, or any concentrated acid.
* International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) carcinogens in Group 1 or 2A
* Reproductive toxins and mutagens
* Controlled Substances
* Nanoparticles
* Novel or lab-derived compounds

# Biological Material

* Biosafety Level 2 (BSL2) or higher facilities
* Risk Group 2 or greater biological agents
* Agents and toxins that are listed on the CDC Select Agent and Toxin List

# Radiation

* Work in spaces designated as “Radiation Area,” “High Radiation Area,” or “Very High Radiation Areas.”
* Any action involving direct contact with radioactive material, especially volatile radioactive compounds.
* Operation of or exposure to radiation-producing equipment.
* Open beam lasers Class 3B or higher.
* Wearing radiation monitoring devices (i.e., dosimeters) other than visitor dosimetry at the Radiation Science and Engineering Center.

# Research Animals

* Animal usage unless exception is granted by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).
* Animals administered BSL2 material as designated by the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) and IACUC are prohibited.

# Respirators

* Tasks requiring usage of respiratory protection.

# Equipment

* High pressure vessels under vacuum or under pressure.
* Power-driven machinery
* Hazardous equipment (circular saws, band saws, power tools, sharps, drill presses, lathes, welding equipment).

NOTE: Requests for exceptions to these restrictions will be entertained when circumstances minimize the risk to the minor to an acceptable level.

# References

* [Penn State Youth Program Compliance](https://universityethics.psu.edu/our-expertise/youth-programs)
* [PSU AD39 Minors Involved in University Sponsored Programs or Programs Held at the University and/or Housed in University Facilities](https://policy.psu.edu/policies/ad39)
* [PSU HR02 Employment of Minors](https://policy.psu.edu/policies/hr02)