

CHAS Academic Laboratory Safety Culture

1. Administrative Oversight of Laboratory Safety

Prudent Practices in the Laboratory from the National Research Council identifies a proactive "safety culture" as a key component of a successful laboratory safety program. In order to better understand laboratory safety cultures in the academic setting, the Division of Chemical Health and Safety and the Committee on Chemical Safety of the American Chemical Society are conducting a national survey of academic chemistry departments.

Definition of a Laboratory Safety Culture: A laboratory safety culture coordinates individual laboratory safety efforts in a way that meets the health and safety expectations of a variety of stakeholders, including laboratory students and workers, the University administration, emergency responders, government regulators, and the larger community. The goal of the safety culture is to achieve safe and healthy working conditions, both in terms of physical reality and community perception. Evidence of a safety culture can be found in a department's laboratory safety oversight, training, emergency planning, and regulatory relations programs.

This survey seeks to understand better how safety cultures are operating in academic chemistry labs, both teaching and research, today.

Please Note: All responses are anonymous; no record is kept to associate specific responses from a specific individual.

1. Who provides primary leadership for the safety program in your department?

- The Department Chair Individual Faculty The Chemical Hygiene Officer The Chemical Safety Committee

Other (please specify)

2. What level of detail is your Chemical Hygiene Plan written at?

- Department wide Specific to general classes of chemical hazards
 Laboratory specific Specific to each procedure

3. The Chemical Hygiene Plan for my department is readily accessible and routinely used by people who work in or support laboratory activities.

- Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

4. The Chemical Hygiene Plan is reviewed annually and revised as necessary.

- Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

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5. Who provides day to day oversight of safety conditions in your department's labs? (check all that apply)

- The Department Chair Individual Faculty The Chemical Hygiene Officer The Chemical Safety Committee

6. When accidents occur in the laboratory, they are reported and a systematic review occurs.

- Always Usually Seldom Not at all

7. How frequently do laboratory safety inspections to determine compliance with the chemical hygiene plan occur?

- Weekly Monthly Each semester Annually

8. The institution's academic administration supports the development and enforcement of the safety rules for laboratories.

- Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

9. Provide details on the issues raised above or additional comments on your institution's safety oversight program here:

	5
	6

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2. Oversight of Faculty Safety Practices

1. New faculty members receive safety training (either general or specific to their new location) prior to being allowed to begin work in the laboratories.

Always

Usually

Seldom

Not at all

2. We provide and mandate laboratory safety training program at least once a year for continuing faculty members.

Yes

No

3. Are adjunct faculty involved in class laboratories given the same level of oversight as full time faculty?

Always

Usually

Seldom

Not at all

4. Safety programs include planning and accommodations for faculty with disabilities.

Agree strongly

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Disagree strongly

5. Faculty members work alone in the laboratory when conducting experimental operations.

Often

Occasionally

Rarely

Not at all

6. Observance of good safety practices is part of the annual and tenure evaluations of faculty members.

Always

Usually

Seldom

Not at all

7. Overall, I would say that my faculty members follow best practices with respect to safety concerns in the laboratory.

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

8. Provide details on the issues raised above or additional comments on the safety culture of your faculty here:

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3. Professional Staff Safety

1. New professional staff employees receive safety training (either general or specific to their new location) prior to being allowed to begin work in the laboratories.

Always Usually Seldom Not at all

2. Continuing professional staff employees receive safety refresher training at least once a year.

Always Usually Seldom Not at all

3. Are part time or temporary professional staff provided the same training as permanent full time staff?

Always Usually Seldom Not at all

4. Safety programs include planning and accommodations for employees with disabilities

Always Usually Seldom Not at all

5. Professional staff work alone in the laboratory when conducting experimental operations.

Often Occasionally Rarely Not at all

6. When specialized experiments are undertaken that entail special risks, additional safety training is provided to professional staff.

Always Usually Seldom Not at all

7. Observance of good safety practices is part of the annual evaluations of professional staff.

Always Usually Seldom Not at all

8. Professional staff are penalized if they fail to follow the safety rules after being trained and reminded of the best safety practice involved.

Always Usually Seldom Not at all

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9. Provide details on the issues raised above or additional comments on your professional staff's safety program here:

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4. Oversight of Student Safety

1. Students are given safety instruction in the beginning of each semester in each laboratory.

Always

Usually

Seldom

Not at all

2. Students are given specific safety instructions, including a review of potential hazards associated with the chemicals being used, before specific laboratories are conducted.

Always

Usually

Seldom

Not at all

3. All undergraduates are provided safety instruction before they begin a laboratory research project with a faculty member.

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

4. All graduate students are provided safety instruction prior to being allowed to work in the laboratory.

Always

Usually

Seldom

Not at all

5. Safety programs include planning and accommodations for students with disabilities

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

6. When specialized experiments are undertaken that entail special risks, additional safety training is provided to students.

Always

Usually

Seldom

Not at all

7. Undergraduates conduct experimental work when no one is in the vicinity of their workarea.

Often

Occasionally

Rarely

Not at all

8. Graduate students are allowed to conduct experimental work when no one is in the vicinity of their workarea.

Often

Occasionally

Rarely

Not at all

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9. Students routinely use appropriate personal protective equipment when taking class laboratories.

Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

10. Teaching assistant are trained in how to provide effective oversight of safety practices in a class laboratory.

Agree strongly Agree Neutral Disagree Disagree strongly

11. Students are penalized if they fail to follow the safety rules after being trained and reminded of the best safety practice involved.

Always Usually Seldom Not at all

12. Provide details on the issues raised above or additional comments on your student safety program here:

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5. Safety Resources

1. How many full time equivalent (FTE) staff support your department's chemical safety program?

2. All laboratories have adequate emergency equipment such as safety showers, fire extinguishers and eyewashes.

Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

3. Laboratory emergency equipment is maintained according to OSHA, ANSI or manufacturer's recommendations.

Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

4. We receive adequate funding to purchase necessary personal protective equipment such as gloves and appropriate eyewear for all faculty members and employees.

Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

5. Number of hours of safety training provided to faculty members each year

0 1-5 5-10 >10

6. Number of hours of safety training provided to undergraduate students each year

0 1-5 5-10 >10

7. Number of hours of safety training provided to graduate students each year

0 1-5 5-10 >10

8. Annual budget for safety training efforts

None <\$100 \$100-\$1000 \$1000-\$10,000 >\$10,000 Supplied centrally, or no specific budget

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9. We'd appreciate any comments you have on the questions we've asked or questions we didn't ask but should have.

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6. General Demographic Information

While the responses to this survey are anonymous, it would be very valuable if you can provide us with the information below to help us understand better the influence of campus size on safety culture.

1. Number of undergraduates campuswide

<1000 1000-5000 5000-10,000 10,000-20,000 >20,000

2. Number of graduate students campuswide

<50 50 - 200 200 - 1000 >1000

3. What is the total enrollment (by all majors) in undergraduate chemistry classes each year?

<100 100 - 500 500 - 1000 1000 - 5000 >5000

4. How many faculty members are full time chemistry faculty?

5 or fewer 5 - 10 10 - 20 >20

5. How many undergraduate chemistry, biochemistry or chemistry related majors are in your department?

<5 5 - 20 20 - 50 >50

6. How many graduate students are there in your department?

0 1-10 10-25 25-50 >50

7. Is your school primarily publically or privately funded?

Private Public

8. Is your chemistry program approved by the American Chemical Society?

Yes

No

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9. Which of these best describes the role of the person who responded to this survey?

Department Chair

Department Chemical Hygiene Officer

Chair of Department Safety Committee

Institutional Chemical Hygiene Officer

Member of Department Safety Committee

Other (please specify)

