

Determining Your Safety Training Requirements @ Columbia University

Columbia-specific training is mandatory for numerous positions and job functions at the University. Please consult the following guide to determine which safety courses are required based on your job function, and the requirements for maintaining your training currency.

Please contact EH&S to arrange a specialized in-lab training session.

Job Function or Activity	Required Safety Training	Initial Training Method	Refresher Training Method	Training Frequency
General Research Safety Courses				
Working in a "laboratory" or with chemicals <i>(Examples: PIs, research staff, post-docs, students)</i>	Laboratory Safety, Chemical Hygiene and Hazardous Waste Management Training <i>Course#: TC0950</i>	"Live" initial	"Live" or RASCAL (individual's preference)	Initial training at the time of hire or before involvement in such activities; refresher every 2 years or sooner if determined by EH&S
Working in a laboratory or with chemicals at CUMC or Morningside campus <i>(Examples: PIs, research staff, post-docs, students who qualify)</i>	Certificate of Fitness for Supervision of Chemical Laboratories (C-14)	"Live" (see http://www.ehs.columbia.edu/cof.html for schedule & information)	Self-review of FDNY C14 examination study material upon renewal of certification	Per FDNY certification Renewal requirements
Radiation Safety Courses				
Working in a lab that uses Radioactive Material (RAM) or X-ray producing machinery <i>(Examples: all users of RAM)</i> or X-ray producing machinery <i>(Examples: all users of RAM)</i>	Radiation Safety and Radioactive Waste Training <i>Course #: TC1750</i>	"Live" initial	"Live" or RASCAL (individual's preference)	Initial training at the time of hire or before involvement in such activities; Annual refresher
Using an irradiator <i>(Example: irradiating cell lines, etc)</i>	Increased Control of Radioactive Materials and Unescorted Access <i>Course #: TC2500</i> NOTE: requires prior approval by Human Resources	RASCAL	RASCAL	Annual at intervals not to exceed 12 months

Human Use of Radioactive Materials (ex. F-18) or X-ray emitting devices (ex. CT, DEXA, Radiographs)	Radiation Safety Training	"Live" initial	"Live" or RASCAL/NYP COLE	Live initial training at the time of hire or before involvement in such activities; Annual refresher via RASCAL or NYP COLE
Biological Safety and Shipping Courses				
Working with: human blood, body fluids, cell lines or unfixed tissue, infectious microorganisms (capable of causing disease in healthy adults), or viral vectors <i>(Examples: PIs research staff, post-docs, students, all "active" staff listed on Appendix A, B, or C forms)</i>	Biological Safety/ Bloodborne Pathogen Training <i>Course #: TC0509</i>	"Live" initial	"Live" or RASCAL (individual's preference)	Initial training at the time of hire or before involvement in such activities incl. approval of new or renewal submissions to the Institutional Biosafety Committee (RASCAL Appendix A, B or C); annual refresher
Working in a biological Safety cabinet	Biological Safety Cabinet Training <i>Course #: TC3550</i>	RASCAL	RASCAL	Initial training before involvement in such activities; refresher every 2 years
Working with viral vectors in research (Note: replication-deficient vectors are NOT exempt)	Viral Vector Research – Handling and Biosafety <i>Course #: TC1150</i>	RASCAL	RASCAL	Initial training before approval of new or renewal submissions to the Institutional Biosafety Committee (RASCAL Appendix B); refresher every 2 years
Principal Investigators working with recombinant DNA in research (Note: replication-deficient vectors are NOT exempt)	Recombinant DNA Training <i>Course #: TC0508</i>	RASCAL	RASCAL	Initial training before approval of new or renewal submissions to the Institutional Biosafety Committee (RASCAL Appendix A); refresher every 3 years
Shipping specimens/viable microorganisms known to or reasonably expected to contain material that may cause disease in humans or animals with Dry	Shipping Biological (infectious and potentially infectious) Materials, Genetically Modified Microorganisms (GMMOs)	RASCAL; "live" session available upon request by department or group	"Live" or RASCAL (individual's preference)	Initial training before involvement in such activities; refresher every 2 years

Ice (Examples: anyone involved in any shipping function, including labeling, packaging, or paperwork completion)	Course #: TC0507			
Shipping non-hazardous materials with Dry Ice (Examples: anyone involved in any shipping function, including labeling, packaging, or paperwork completion)	Shipping with Dry Ice, Exempt Specimens and Excepted Quantities of Dangerous Goods Course #: TC0076	RASCAL; "live" session available upon request by department or group	"Live" or RASCAL (individual's preference)	Initial training before involvement in such activities; refresher every 2 years
Activity- or Hazard-Specific Research Safety Courses				
Working with Formaldehyde (Examples: PIs, research staff, post-docs, technicians, students)	Formaldehyde Safety Training Course #: TC0016	"Live" or RASCAL (individual's preference)	"Live" or RASCAL (individual's preference)	Initial training at the time of hire or before involvement in such activities; Annual refresher as per OSHA
Working with Hydrofluoric Acid (Examples: PIs research staff, post-docs, students, all Clean Room users)	Hydrofluoric Acid Safety Training Course #: TC1650	RASCAL; "live" session available upon request by department or group	"Live" or RASCAL (individual's preference)	Initial training at the time of hire or before involvement in such activities; refresher every 2 years or sooner if determined by EH&S
Working in a lab that uses cyanide or cyanide-containing substances (Examples: PIs, research staff, post-docs, technicians, students)	Cyanide Safety Training Course #: TC0085	RASCAL; "live" session available upon request by department or group	RASCAL; "live" session available upon request by department or group	Initial training at the time of hire or before to involvement in such activities
Working in a lab that stores, handles or uses pyrophoric materials (Examples: PIs, research staff, post-docs, technicians, students)	Pyrophoric Materials Training Course #: TC1850	"Live" as determined by EH&S or available upon request by department or group	"Live" as determined by EH&S or available upon request by department or group	Initial training at the time of hire or before to involvement in such activities
Working with Controlled Substances <i>in vitro</i> or <i>in vivo</i> , under IACUC-approved	Controlled Substances Use and Management in Research	RASCAL; "live" session available upon request by department	RASCAL; "live" session available upon request by department	Initial training before procurements and/or use of Controlled Substances; refresher

protocols (Examples: License/permit applicants, all users of controlled substances in research)	Course #: TC0502	or group	or group	every 2 years or sooner per EH&S determination
Working with Class 3b or 4a Lasers. Personnel working with other lasers are encouraged, but not required, to attend. (Examples: all users of lasers)	Laser Safety Training Course #: TC1600	"Live" initial	"Live" or RASCAL (individual's preference)	Initial training at the time of hire or before involvement in such activities; refresher every 2 years
Working in a machine shop or other area with machinery. Personnel working with a specific machine must also receive machine specific training provided by their department before use. (Example: all users of machinery)	Shop Safety Training Course #: TC0600	RASCAL; "live" session available upon request by department or group	RASCAL; "live" session available upon request by department or group	Initial training before working in a shop or with machinery and annual refresher thereafter

In addition to these safety training courses, you may be required to complete other Columbia University training courses. Please utilize the [Research Compliance Training Finder](#) tool to identify all of your training requirements.