

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.

Find schedule and information for “live” trainings here: <https://research.columbia.edu/safety-trainings>

In accordance with COVID-19 recommendations concerning group events and out of an abundance of caution, please be advised all safety training will be conducted online via Columbia University’s RASCAL training system until further notice: <https://www.rascal.columbia.edu/>

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 #: TC4951</i>	“Live” initial training Attendees will be given credit for <i>Course #:</i> <i>TC4951</i>	RASCAL <i>Course #: TC0950</i>	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”	Self-review of FDNY C14 examination study material upon renewal of certification	Per FDNY certification Renewal requirements
COVID-19 Safety Courses				
For the broader Columbia University Community	COVID-19 Awareness Training	EH&S Website https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iuv0RZlubyOkWFTqZWOqrd5f5BpTDzB0/view	Refresher is not required	This course is an optional informational awareness module for anyone interested in basic background related to SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19.
For trained scientists who work with materials containing potentially active SARS-CoV-2	Biosafety Precautions with Clinical Specimens from COVID-19 Patients	RASCAL	RASCAL <i>Course #: TC5500</i>	

	<i>Course # TC5500</i>			Initial training at the time of hire or before to involvement in such activities; annual refresher
All Columbia University faculty, staff and students (personnel) working in research	COVID-19 Training: Safe Research at Columbia University <i>Course # TC5550</i>	RASCAL	Refresher is not required	All faculty, staff and students working in a Columbia University research laboratory must complete this module. Training is required either before returning to campus, or while continuing to work on campus, as applicable.
For all other Columbia University personnel (this is a general training that does not include content specific to research)	COVID-19 Training: Working Safely at Columbia University	EH&S Website & CU ELM https://columbia.sabacloud.com/Saba/Web_spf/NA3P1PRD0112/app/shared;spf-url=common%2Fdetail%2Fcours00000000027740	Refresher is not required	All faculty, staff and students – <i>other than those working in a research laboratory</i> – must complete this training module. Training is required either before returning to campus, or while continuing to work on campus, as applicable.

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 #: TC4850</i>	"Live" initial Attendees will be given credit for <i>Course #: TC4850 & Course #: TC4950</i> <i>Biological Safety Cabinet Training</i>	RASCAL <i>Course #: TC0509</i>	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 <i>Course #: TC3550</i>	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 Ice <i>(Examples: anyone involved in any shipping function, including labeling, packaging, or paperwork completion)</i>	Shipping Biological (infectious and potentially infectious) Materials, Genetically Modified Microorganisms (GMMOs) <i>Course #: TC0507</i>	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
Shipping non-hazardous materials with Dry Ice <i>(Examples: anyone involved in any</i>	Shipping with Dry Ice, Exempt Specimens and Excepted Quantities of Dangerous Goods	RASCAL; "live" session available	"Live" or RASCAL (individual's preference)	Initial training before involvement in such activities; refresher every 2 years

shipping function, including labeling, packaging, or paperwork completion)	Course #: TC0076	upon request by department or group		
Activity- or Hazard-Specific Research Safety Courses				
Working with Formaldehyde, Paraformaldehyde, and Formalin (> 0.1 mL) on a lab bench or downdraft table (Examples: PIs, research staff, post-docs, technicians, students) Note: If you work with these chemicals exclusively in a certified chemical fume hood or at concentrations less than 0.1 mL, you are not required to take Formaldehyde Training.	Initial training: Safe Use of Formaldehyde Course #: TC3750 and Employee required to contact EH&S at occusafety@columbia.edu	RASCAL	RASCAL	Initial training at the time of hire or before involvement in such activities
Working in a lab that operated laboratory autoclaved and automated equipment washers (AEW)	Laboratory Autoclave and Automated Equipment Washer Safety and Hazard Awareness Training Course #: TC4501	RASCAL	RASCAL	Initial training at the time of hire or before involvement in such activities
Working with Controlled Substances <i>in vitro</i> or <i>in vivo</i> , under IACUC-approved protocols (Examples: License/permit applicants, all users of controlled substances in research)	Controlled Substances Use and Management in Research Course #: TC0502	RASCAL; "live" session available upon request by department or group	RASCAL; "live" session available upon request by department or group	Initial training before procurements and/or use of Controlled Substances; refresher every 2 years or sooner per EH&S determination
Working in a lab that uses cryostats and microtomes	Cryostat and Microtome Safety Course #: TC4750	RASCAL	RASCAL	Initial training at the time of hire or before to involvement in such activities
Working in a lab that uses cyanide or cyanide-containing substances (Examples: PIs, research staff, post-docs,	Cyanide Safety Training Course #: TC0085	RASCAL; "live" session available	RASCAL; "live" session available upon request by	Initial training at the time of hire or before to involvement in such activities

<i>technicians, students)</i>		upon request by department or group	department or group	
Working with Hydrofluoric Acid <i>(Examples: PIs research staff, post-docs, students, all Clean Room users)</i>	Hydrofluoric Acid Safety Training <i>Course #: TC1650</i>	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 with Class 3b or 4a Lasers. Personnel working with other lasers are encouraged, but not required, to attend. <i>(Examples: all users of lasers)</i>	Laser Safety Training <i>Course #: TC1600</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
Working in a lab that stores, handles or uses pyrophoric materials <i>(Examples: PIs, research staff, post-docs, technicians, students)</i>	Pyrophoric Materials Training <i>Course #: TC1850</i>	"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 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. <i>(Example: all users of machinery)</i>	Shop Safety Training <i>Course #: TC0600</i>	RASCAL; "live" session available upon request by department or group	Refresher is not required RASCAL; "live" session available upon request by department or group	Initial training before working in a shop or with machinery.

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.