



Policy Brief

Last Revised: 10/18/2024

7.21 Minors Participating in Research Activities at Emory University

Administering Department: Office of Research Compliance & Regulatory Affairs

Scope:

- **Summary**

Emory University commits to promoting science and research education programs for Minors and to encouraging mentor/mentee relationships between Emory researchers and young people interested in developing their scientific interests and research skills. Therefore, Minors may be permitted to participate in research activities at Emory University, including in research laboratories, provided that certain requirements are met, and certain prohibitions are not violated.

- **Applicability**

This policy applies to the following persons:

- Minors who participate in research activities at Emory University, including activities performed in Emory University research laboratories; and
- Principal Investigators/Sponsors who host Minors in their laboratories and their research activities at Emory University.

This policy does not apply to minors enrolled in an Emory University or Oxford College regular catalogue course or degree program.

How to Comply with the Policy

- Minors cannot begin participating in research activities until RCRA has provided final approval and signed off on the [RCRA Minors Registration Form](#) as detailed below.
- All Minors¹ participating in research activities must have a PI/sponsor.
- Each PI/sponsor looking to host a Minor must complete the [RCRA Minors Registration Form](#). The form can be obtained by contacting researchcompliance@emory.edu.
- The Minors Registration Form must be completed and signed by the PI, the minor, the minor's parent/guardian, the minor's school official, applicable Emory offices, and RCRA.
- Each PI/Sponsor must complete the required trainings as listed in the Minors Registration Form.
- PIs must ensure that Minors are never present alone in laboratories, even if they are not participating in research activities. Minors must always be supervised by the PI/Sponsor or by another responsible adult Emory faculty or full-time Emory staff member to whom the PI/Sponsor has specifically delegated this responsibility.
- For additional policy details, including specific activities Minors are prohibited from participating in, please see [Policy 7.21](#).
- Additional resources: [Minors Infographic](#)

Noncompliance with the Policy

¹ Policy 7.21 defines "Minor" as any person who is a minimum of 15 years of age, but who has not attained 18 years of age and who is not enrolled in an Emory University or Oxford College regular catalog course or degree program. For the purposes of this policy, "Minor" should only include rising and current juniors and seniors attending a Georgia high school.



If PIs are noncompliant with any section of [Policy 7.21](#), they could possibly be prohibited from hosting minors in their laboratories.