

Anatomy Lab Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is formaldehyde dangerous?

You've learned from your online training that formaldehyde is a suspected carcinogen. Formaldehyde levels in the lab are monitored annually and are within OSHA standards. Nevertheless, it is recommended that you only stand directly over the cadaver when you are actively dissecting or reviewing anatomy.

2. What if I detect mold on a cadaver?

Immediately inform the Anatomy Lab Manager (Dana Sikon) or a faculty member.

3. What do I do if I cut myself or get an eye splash? What if it happens after hours?

Wash the cut out in the sink with soap and water, treat it with antiseptic ointment (in the first aid kit), and cover it with a band aid (also in the first aid kit). If it doesn't stop bleeding, go to student health. If after hours, go to the emergency department.

For eye splash, use one of the many the eye wash stations in the lab (they are at most sinks). If you have additional concerns go to student health or the emergency department.

4. What do I do at the end of a lab before I leave?

- Remove scalpel blades from the scalpel handle using the Quicksmart system if using a non-red colored scalpel handle, or manually if using a red scalpel handle. Please be sure to dispose of scalpel blades in the red Sharps disposal container located on the lab countertops.
- Place all removed cadaver tissues (excluding bone) in the green-colored trashcans containing the green liner. All bone tissue must remain with the cadaver for cremation.
- Place used gloves, shoe covers, and cadaver-soaked paper towels in the Biohazard Contaminated Materials waste boxes containing the red liner.
- Place all regular trash in the gray trashcans.
- Wrap all exposed tissues with the provided muslin cloth and wet the cloth using the Lysol wetting solution.
- Turn off the surgical light over cadaver table.
- Wash instruments with Dawn detergent and warm water. Dry the instruments and store them under the table in the provided plastic tray. Atlases, which may be viewed during a lab on a bookstand or on the cadaver, should be stored on the middle computer cart shelf.
- When not in use, plastic blocks should be washed and stored under the table.
- Hang your dissection gown in your designated location in the lab.

5. Can I dissect and study in the lab outside of scheduled lab time?

The lab is open to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You may find it necessary to use the lab after hours to finish a dissection or study the cadavers. You are encouraged to study other group's cadavers, but please don't dissect any cadaver other than the one to which you have been assigned. In addition, please wet and cover correctly any cadaver that you view.

6. Can I bring a guest into the lab?

Guests are not allowed in the lab without advanced permission from the Director of Gross Anatomy Education or the Anatomy Lab Manager. All guests must be at least 18-years-old.

7. Can I take pictures in the lab?

Students are not allowed to take photographs of cadavers. In addition, cell phones are not permitted in the lab. However, photography for a research publication may be arranged with advanced permission from the Anatomy Lab Manager and/or Director of Gross Anatomy Education.

8. Can I let a stranger in the lab?

No, strangers asking for lab access should be told to contact the Anatomy Lab Manager or the Director of Gross Anatomy Education. You will probably recognize most strangers who have access to the lab without your assistance: students, attending and resident physicians, housekeeping, physical plant, and loading dock workers. In addition, there may be technicians and medical device employees in the lab who are providing services in the Surgical Skills Training Center. If you ever feel uncomfortable with a stranger in the lab after hours, exit the lab and call **(9-911)** from the phone in the front lobby.

9. What can I remove from the lab?

In general, nothing can be removed from the lab. This is especially true of cadaver material. However, it is possible that some plastic models can be checked out for educational purposes with advance permission from the Anatomy Lab Manager or Director of Gross Anatomy Education.