

Policies for Undergraduate Researchers Working in the Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience (IBB) Core Facilities

1. Face covering, social distancing and all other guidelines are strictly enforced. Multi-layered disposable masks available at the core labs will be necessary during the training and use of core labs. These masks can be worn in addition to any cloth face covering to protect other users.
2. Using core services and submitting samples to cores by undergraduates is permitted.
3. Work-study undergraduate students and interns from companies that are enrolled in an undergraduate institution can continue working in the cores. We strongly encourage that all undergraduates get COVID-19 testing on campus prior to working in the cores as well as weekly testing throughout the semester.
4. Due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions, some cores cannot train new undergraduate researchers on core equipment this semester. Additionally, in cases where effective training or troubleshooting requires <6ft distancing, students are requested to enroll in surveillance testing prior to the training interaction.
5. In many instances, more than one person cannot be at a single instrument at the same time. As an example, a grad student mentor could not work with any newly trained undergrad to guide them on what data / images to collect. Likewise, maximum occupancy restrictions and COVID-19 contact tracing requirement limit access to the core rooms to only the individual actively using the instrument they reserved. If more than one user is essential on a machine to complete the testing, please check with the core manager in order to get approval ahead of time.
6. Undergraduate researchers (non-work study) that have been previously trained and that wish to access the cores will submit requests to the cores of interest stating why they need to use the facility rather than having the graduate student mentor collect images. The request will be evaluated and approved by the core managers and the Core Facilities Director. In special cases, we may consult the IBB Director prior to providing a response.
7. Undergrads that get approval should make attempts to plan experiments during low demand and low occupancy times in order to reduce the risk of exposure to lab managers and others. New users must plan on their initial few uses during times when core staff is available to troubleshoot during regular hours. Core staff may not be available on site at all times and may not be able to effectively troubleshoot remotely for novice users. Students are encouraged to NOT work alone in the building. A buddy system must be implemented so that someone on campus will know the location of the student at any given time. GTPD escorts to and from dorms, buildings, or vehicles can be requested when visiting campus afterhours.
8. The above policies are subject to change based on the guidance from the IBB and GT administration.