

Procedures and Protocols for Cadaver Use at Imperial Valley College

Statement:

Imperial Valley College (IVC) is committed to providing its students the best possible education. The study of human anatomy is a vital component of the education of pre-healthcare professionals and can be enhanced through the detailed study of the human body. Imperial Valley College believes that the use of donated human bodies provides its pre-professional health care students a unique opportunity to better understand the structure and structural relationships of the human body. The use of donated bodies enables students to appreciate the size and 3-dimensionality of a body that they would otherwise not be exposed to without the study of cadavers. Similarly, use of donated bodies by our students provides them the additional benefit of evaluating biological variation and a chance of viewing various pathologies. Imperial Valley College also believes the benefits of using cadavers go beyond an understanding of anatomy by providing students “a first patient,” thereby exposing them to an element of humanness that they would otherwise not receive if IVC did not use donated bodies. Imperial Valley College believes that through the use of donated bodies our students will be better prepared to pursue successful careers in the health care industry.

Imperial Valley College recognizes the value and importance of donated bodies and is committed to ensuring that donated bodies will always be treated with the utmost care and respect. Survivors may gain some comfort in the knowledge that IVC fully understands the indispensable and honorable contribution that body donors have made to the education of our students. In as much, all donors will be maintained in a secure restricted setting. Only students enrolled in specific anatomy classes will be allowed to study a body. Additionally, students will only be allowed to examine a donated body in the presence of a full-time anatomy instructor. Moreover, each year a single inter-faith memorial service will be conducted on IVC campus to acknowledge and honor those who have provided the “ultimate gift” of discovery and knowledge to our students.

Protocol and Procedures

Acquisition of Cadavers:

All cadavers will be obtained through the University of California, San Diego Body Donation Program. The primary focus of the Body Donation Program is to obtain the human cadaver for educational and scientific study. California is a signatory on the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (1968) which established a uniform set of guidelines for the bequest of human bodies. For more information about the UCSD Body Donor program visit: <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/me/donation/bodydonor.html> WWW.

Security of Cadavers:

Cadavers will be maintained in the “Cadaver Room” which is accessible through Rooms 2736 and 2737. The Cadaver Room and adjacent laboratory prep room will remain locked at all times unless an anatomy professor is present. The only keys to the Cadaver Room will be held by full time anatomy and physiology instructors, the Chair of the Science Department, and appropriate maintenance and security personnel. Only students enrolled in Human Anatomy (BIOL 204), Anatomy and Physiology (BIOL 200 and 202), or Human Physiology (BIOL 206) courses may study or view the cadavers. **No visitors of any sort can enter the Cadaver Room without the permission of Tom Morrell or Susan Moss.**

Confidentiality of Cadavers:

The confidentiality of the cadaver will be maintained at all times. University California, San Diego provides a redacted Death Certificate with donated bodies. The document provides birth/death dates, and cause of death. It does not provide a name or past addresses of the donor. Donors will be covered at all times they are not being studied, and the face of the donor will be hidden at all times. Anonymity of the donor will be maintained if photographs are taken. Photographs may only be taken for educational purposes by an anatomy instructor.

Temperature, Ventilation, and cleaning of Cadaver Room:

Temperature of the Cadaver Room will be maintained at 67 F at all times. If the temperature of the room exceeds 80 F for a period longer than 2 hours ice will be placed around the cadaver.

Anytime people are in the room with a cadaver, the ventilation system must be on. The ceiling to floor ventilation system is designed to pull air towards the floor thereby reducing exposure to chemicals and odors. Air quality and monitoring of the room will be maintained according to California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations. Appropriate use reports will be submitted to OSHA by the Science Department. Use reports will include employee exposure and air quality monitoring. Air quality for formaldehyde will be monitored and recorded prior to and during all IVC employee exposures during cadaver activities. A copy of the OSHA guidelines will be in the cadaver room at all times.

The IVC custodial staff will clean the room upon request.

Cadaver handling

When a new cadaver is received by IVC, the original cadaver will be returned to University of California San Diego. All tissue samples, organs, or other components of the cadaver removed while at IVC will be returned with the cadaver.

Any fluids recovered from the cadaver will be stored in a container separate from all other wastes. The container, either a five or fifty five gallon plastic with a re-sealable lid, will be labeled "Pathogenic Waste, from cadaver" and handled by IVC's designated chemical disposal company.

Student Preparation for Cadaver Study:

It is natural for some students to feel awkward, discomfort, or anxiety prior, to and/or during anatomical study of a cadaver. Instructors should discuss the possible range of emotions with students prior to their first exposure. Additionally, instructors should let students know that, if they desire, they have the opportunity to discuss their emotions confidentially, prior to the student's first exposure. All students also have access to counseling through Counseling Services at the IVC Student Health Center to process emotions and feelings. All students using the Cadaver Room must agree, in writing to the current Use Protocol and Rules established by the Science Department.

Rules to be followed by all students while in the Cadaver Room:

1. **The anatomical donors are to be treated with the utmost respect at all times.**
An appropriate decorum will be maintained at all times to uphold the dignity of the individual who generously donated the gift of knowledge to you. Thus, no inappropriate behavior will be tolerated including, but not limited to jokes, nicknames or disrespectful remarks will be made that would be demeaning to the donor or the donor's family.
2. Only students registered and currently enrolled in Human Anatomy (BIOL 204), Human Anatomy and Physiology (BIOL 200 and 202), or Human Physiology (BIOL 206) are allowed in the Cadaver Room.
3. A full-time anatomy instructor must be present when students study a cadaver
4. The cadavers are primarily for demonstration. Students will not touch or dissect a cadaver unless specifically directed to do so by a full-time anatomy instructor. If you are given permission to touch or dissect the cadaver by an instructor be extremely careful.
5. No eating, drinking, or smoking is allowed.
6. Long-sleeved laboratory coats are highly recommended.
7. Gloves must be worn if a specimen is touched.
8. Goggles or protective eye wear is recommended, and will be worn at all times while using a bone saw, or when assisting someone who is using a bone saw or drill.
9. No music of any sort is allowed.
10. No equipment is to be removed from the room.
11. No cadaver tissue of any type is to be removed from the room.
12. No prosthetic appliance, adornment, or other natural or man-made item found on or in the cadaver will be removed from the room.
13. No photography or videos of any type is allowed.
14. No cell phones are allowed.

15. Only textbooks and lab manuals are allowed in the room. All other items (backpacks and other personal items) will be left in the classroom.
16. The room's ventilation system must be on at all times while students are in the room. Do not prop the door open. If you have respiratory difficulties, inform your instructor and exit the room immediately.
17. Assume all reagents and tissues are a potential hazard.
18. No visitors of any sort are allowed.
19. Any violations of the rules will result in expulsion of the offender from the Cadaver Room
20. Report any violations of these rules to your anatomy and/or physiology instructor, or the Science Department Chair.

Failure to follow the rules and procedures hereby set forth may result in IVC losing its privileges to obtain bodies from the UC San Diego Body Donation Program.

The following Student Contract must be signed by all students prior to their exposure to the cadaver.

Imperial Valley College Student Cadaver Rules and Procedures Agreement

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20. Report any violations of these rules to Dr. Tom Morrell or Susan Moss.

I, (please print legibly) _____ have read, understand, and agree to follow these Cadaver Room rules and procedures. I agree to abide by any additional instructions, written or verbal provided by my instructor.

Signature

Date

Course name
(e.g., Human Anatomy)

Course number
(BIOL 204)

Day and time
(MW 9:00-12:00)

Instructor