OEHS Lab Inspections Unit Strategic Plan, 2021-2025

Lab Inspections Process

Tulane has lacked a formal lab inspection program for many years. In 2021 a new inspection process was created. The GoCanvas digital forms software was purchased and used to create custom inspection templates for this program.

Supporting factsheets and process documents for the inspected labs and OEHS personnel conducting the inspections were developed in 2023. To date, 283 formal lab inspections have been conducted by the OEHS Lab Inspections team.

SciShield

Software Rolled out in March 2023, to date approx 90% of PI’s have adopted the platform.

Historically, Institutional tracking of lab hazards, documentation, spaces, and personnel has been inconsistent. The university needed a software solution to track the research population in a holistic way. In 2022, several software options were compared with SciShield being the best choice. The software was purchased and rolled out in spring 2023. The software features a web-based platform for entering and tracking safety information of all Tulane research operations.

Chemical Safety

Accurate tracking of chemicals in use will enable better lab support and the creation of targeted safety sub-programs.

The inventory module of SciShield will allow for much more accurate information about the chemicals in use in individual Tulane labs and allow for system-wide summaries of the types of chemicals present at the university. Armed with this information, specific chemical SOPs and trainings can be developed to better support researchers.

OEHS LAB SAFETY 5 YEAR PLAN

YEAR 1
Round 1 Inspections
Launch GoCanvas

YEAR 2
Round 2 Inspections
(Legacy Chems Focus)
Launch SciShield
(90% Adoption)
New Training Options
Controlled Substances Updates

YEAR 3
Round 3 Inspections
(Chem Inventory Focus)
New Chemical Hygiene Plan

YEAR 4
Round 4 Inspections (SOP Focus)
SOP Templates, Workshops

YEAR 5
Round 5 Inspections
(Processes Focus)
Job Hazard/PPE Workshops
Fieldwork Safety Program

PROJECT START DATE
10/14/2021

CURRENT PROGRESS
11/30/2023

PROJECT END DATE
12/31/2026

Team Increased to 3

Team Increased to 5