



## Maximum Occupant Load for Laboratories

Maximum occupancy load is among the most important concepts in preserving public safety. Some of the greatest fire tragedies of the modern era occurred because large crowds of people occupied spaces that were not capable of ensuring quick egress for everyone in the event of an emergency situation. As a result of these tragedies there are very strict laws in the United States pertaining to occupancy load; we've all seen signs in public places, such as restaurants, that indicate what that load is according to the Fire Marshal. The UC Davis Fire Division takes occupancy load very seriously and because UC Davis is a large research institution, the Fire Department is often asked how many persons can occupy a given laboratory. The answer depends on the use of the laboratory, as outlined below:

### RESEARCH LABORATORY

The rule of thumb for research laboratories is 200 square feet per person. Take the total square footage of the lab and divide by 200, then round down. For example, a 500 square foot research laboratory will accommodate two (2) researchers. While this does not prohibit small group discussions, the intent is to prohibit overcrowding of both equipment and personnel these types of labs.

### TEACHING LABORATORY

The occupant load for teaching laboratories varies depending on the activity. Based on equipment and furniture configuration, the following applies:

<b>Engineering, such as the labs in Bainer Hall</b>	<b>67 square feet/person</b>
<b>Physical Sciences</b>	<b>47 square feet/person</b>
<b>Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences</b>	<b>45 square feet/person</b>
<b>Biological Sciences</b>	<b>42 square feet/person</b>
<b>Physics/Geology</b>	<b>23 square feet/person</b>