A biological safety cabinet (BSC) is used as a primary barrier against exposure to infectious biological agents. A properly working BSC protects laboratory personnel, visitors, and the environment from exposure, and also protects the research material itself.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) recommend in Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories, Fifth Edition (revised 2009), that BSCs be certified at the time of installation, any time the BSC has been moved, has a filter replaced, and annually thereafter. This certification ensures that a BSC is in good working order.

The Environmental Health & Safety Office (EH&S) has an inventory of BSCs on the UT Arlington campus and will monitor due dates and send reminders to the principal investigators for the annual certifications. The cost to certify a cabinet is currently $100 and repair/replacement costs vary accordingly. EH&S maintains records of the certifications. Please notify EH&S at 817-272-2185 when any new BSCs have been purchased.

Compliance with the safety guideline of annual certification for BSCs (and any new units purchased), repair maintenance, replacement parts and/or decontaminations of BSCs is the responsibility of the UT Arlington departments, including payment.

Keeping biological safety cabinets in good working order makes UT Arlington a safer place to work and learn!