**Laboratory Safety**

**Electrical and Computer Engineering Department**

**Safety is of primary importance in all of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department’s laboratories. A large expenditure of time, effort and money has gone into ensuring the student’s safety while simultaneously trying to enhance the learning experience in this venue. The lab instructor is a graduate professional, who is very familiar with the lab experiments and thus well qualified to provide any assistance needed in avoiding unsafe conditions.**

**In the effort to design lab experiments that foster an understanding of the material under study in a safe environment, the labs typically operate at low power. For example, the largest voltage supply in the lab is 15.5 Vdc (recall that the wall plug in your home is 110 Vac). The various circuit elements are also small valued components that are appropriate for the testing configuration.**

**Although the department has been diligent in doing everything necessary to protect students from harm, it is incumbent upon all students to approach the experiments with caution rather than a laissez-faire attitude.**

**The department recommends the following precautions while performing experiments in the lab.**

1. **Have lab instructor verify the proper connections prior to energizing the circuit**
2. **Turn off the power supply while making changes to the circuit**
3. **Verify the proper meter connections for the DMM, i.e. measuring current vs. voltage and resistance**
4. **Ensure property polarity for components**
5. **Ensure that current limiting resistors are used when necessary, i.e. don’t connect the voltage source directly across a diode and blow it to smithereens**

**This foregoing list is simply a sample of precautionary procedures. In general, always ask your lab instructor for help if there is any question or concern.**