Embalming

The embalming process is done professionally by State of Illinois-licensed embalmers. Our cadavers are purchased from the Anatomical Gift Association of Illinois which receives them as donations.

The embalming solution contains: 5% formaldehyde, 33% methanol, 33% glycerine, and 27% phenol. MSDS sheets for each component are available upon request.

Students who experience respiratory or contact-sensitivity reactions to these ingredients are advised to notify the Course Director and seek medical attention if necessary. Adequate precautions against skin contact must be taken (e.g. wearing gloves, wearing proper dissection clothing and lab coats as well as impermeable plastic aprons, face masks, etc. as necessary). Our Safety and Security office inspects the dissection bays; air handling and air exchange are at OSHA standards that are monitored and maintained.