

About Your Study Plan

This Study Plan is your syllabus for the American Board program. We encourage you to use the recommended resources to target preparation to your needs and goals. There will be hyperlinks throughout this document. Please make sure that you visit the relevant pages to access all of the resources. Your commitment to great teaching begins here.

Preparing to Pass

American Board is committed to making sure you are the best possible teacher. We will provide you with study tips to get ready for the exam and the content and resources to review the material.

Think of the Snapshot below as an overview for what you need to know. For more detail in each topic, review the exam [standards](#). The ABCTE exams are based on this blueprint, so consider the syllabus for what you want to study.

Your Materials

- **Standards:** a list of everything that might be on the test.
- **Study Plan:** your syllabus with link to what you need to study for each section.
- **Study Materials:** an overview course on the topics you will be tested on.
- **Practice Exam/Section Quizzes:** a sample test questions and solutions.

Biology Exam Snapshot

Time Allowed	240 minutes
Format	Multiple Choice
# of Questions	145
On-Screen Exhibits	Standard Calculator & Periodic Table
Passing Score	Proficient: 266/500 Distinguished: 311/500

About This Exam

The American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence believes that highly skilled biology teachers should possess a comprehensive body of knowledge that is research-based and promotes student achievement.

The biology exam is a rigorous assessment of a candidate’s knowledge and application of general biology. The topics assessed are characteristically covered in introductory college level biology courses, although some more advanced questions are included.

Exam Summary	Areas of Study	Percentage of Exam
	General Science Knowledge	20%
	Scientific Investigation	15%
	Biochemical Basis of Life	6%
	Cell Biology and Microbiology	10%
	Classical Genetics	4%
	Molecular Biology	11%
	Evolution	7%
	Comparative Physiology	6%
	Human Physiology	9%
	Plant Biology and Physiology	6%
	Ecology	6%

How to Use American Board Practice Tests

If you have chosen to use our practice tests, you may have already used the quizzes to get a better idea of where your strengths and weaknesses are. There are two full-length exams that we suggest you use in testing mode as a mid-term and final to work on your timing and endurance. You can use them again in explore mode to identify distractors.

The Study Plan:

Your study plan includes direction on how to use ABCTE's resources. We also include recommended resources to aid in your mastery. This plan was designed for a 9 month period (4 months for Professional Teaching Knowledge (PTK); 4 months for the subject matter; 2 weeks to take each test) in which most people are able to complete the program. Many have completed the program in a shorter amount of time.

Area of Study	Required Resources	Recommended Resources
General Domains 1-5 (Standards 1.01-5.17) These standards cover: ☐ Domain 1: Scientific Investigation ☐ Domain 2: Biology ☐ Domain 3: Chemistry ☐ Domain 4: Earth Science ☐ Domain 5: Physics	Complete the following readings and watch the following videos in the Biology Refresher Course (PDF or Online version): Basic Science Core ☐ Scientific Investigation Part I ☐ Scientific Investigation Part II ☐ Basic Chemistry Part I ☐ Basic Chemistry Part II ☐ Earth Science ☐ Physics ☐ Biology Basics ☐ Reproduction ☐ Mendelian Genetics ☐ Fossils, Evolution & Diversity ☐ Human Body Systems ☐ Ecosystems	Web Resources ☐ MIT OpenCourseWare: Introductory Biology ☐ What is Life: A Lifescience Educational Forum ☐ Easyphysics.net ☐ WebElements Books ☐ The Complete Idiot's Guide to Biology ☐ Foundations of Earth Science

Your Notes:

Study Tip:

One effective way of using the practice quizzes is to look at the incorrect answer choice before looking at the correct explanation to see if you can understand why those options are wrong. If you can understand how a test maker uses distractors, you will be able to eliminate wrong answer choices faster on test day.

Area of Study	Required Resources	Recommended Resources
Biology Domain 1.01-1.14 These standards cover: ☐ Biomechanical Basis of Life	Complete the following readings and watch the following videos in the Biology Refresher Course (PDF or Online version): Biochemical Basis of Life ☐ Biochemical Basis of Life ☐ Genetic Engineering Lipids ☐ Proteins ☐ Nucleotides & Nucleic Acids	Web Resources ☐ What is Life: A Lifescience Educational Forum Books ☐ A Dictionary of Biology (Oxford Paperback Reference) ☐ Schaum's Outline of Biochemistry ☐ Biochemistry: Board Review Series

Your Notes:

"I can give children the inspiration and encouragement to confront their own challenges, surpass negativity and persevere... Without this program, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to pursue teaching."

- Traci Brown, ABCTE Teacher, FL