

# Biological Science Standard Certificate

Endorsement Code: 2210

**Note**: Requirements, passing test scores, and fees are subject to change without notice.

This endorsement entitles the holder to teach biological, environmental and general science in all public schools. Biological science includes biology, botany, anatomy and physiology, and zoology.

The standard certificate is a permanent certificate issued to an individual who has completed the Provisional Teacher Process, holds a previously issued New Jersey standard instructional certificate, or meets [reciprocity requirements](http://highpoint.state.nj.us/education/certification/reciprocity/index.shtml) for standard certification.

You can obtain a standard certificate in biological science using [Option One](#_Option_One) or [Option Two](#_Option_Two).

## Option One

### Degree Requirement

A minimum of a bachelor’s degree is required from an accredited college or university.

### Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement

**Note**: Degree must be in an eligible baccalaureate degree program or higher.

Minimum GPA by Graduation Date

| **Candidate Graduation Date** | **Minimum Cumulative GPA**  **(when 4.00 equals an A)** |
| --- | --- |
| Before September 1, 2016 | 2.75 |
| On or after September 1, 2016\* | 3.00 |

\*There are [GPA flexibility rules](https://www.nj.gov/education/certification/testing/flex/) in place for those who graduated on or after September 1, 2016 where a Praxis test score may offset a GPA that is lower than 3.0, but higher than 2.75.

### Subject Matter Preparation

#### Credit Requirements

A minimum of 30 credits in a coherent sequence in the subject field of biological science. At least 12 of the 30 credits must be at the advanced level of study (junior, senior or graduate level).

#### Acceptable Courses

Courses in pedagogy or education are not acceptable.

Examples of acceptable courses:

* Anatomy and physiology
* Biology
* Botany
* Zoology

Related courses may be accepted depending on the course description and content. Provide a course description if a course is not taken from the biology department.

The final determination as to which courses will be counted towards the subject matter is based on content standards found in the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

### Praxis II Test Requirement

[Test Requirements for Certification in New Jersey](https://www.nj.gov/education/certification/testing/req/index.shtml)

### Professional Teacher Preparation

A coherent sequence of study in professional education courses which culminates in supervised clinical practice.

### State Teaching Certificate

Submit a copy of a valid out-of-state teaching certificate that is equivalent to a New Jersey standard instructional certificate. Candidates who hold a standard New Jersey instructional certificate do not need to submit a copy of their certificate.

### Record of Professional Experience

* After applying in NJEdCert, a Record of Professional Experience form will be emailed to the employers listed in your application.
* The New Jersey Department of Education will make the final determination as to whether the experience meets New Jersey reciprocity regulations.

### Physiology and Hygiene Requirement

This requirement may be completed by choosing one of the following options:

1. Present evidence of basic military training.
2. Complete a course such as biology, health or nutrition that appears on an accredited two- or four-year college or university transcript.
3. Complete an online test. You must have a tracking number and an application on file to take this test.

## Option Two

### Certificate Requirement

Hold a New Jersey standard certificate in chemistry, earth science, physical science or physics.

### Subject Matter Preparation

#### Credit Requirements

15 credits in biological science with six credits at the advanced level.

#### Acceptable Courses

Courses in pedagogy or education are not acceptable.

The final determination as to which courses will be counted towards the subject matter is based on content standards found in the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

### Praxis II Test Requirement

[Test Requirements for Certification in New Jersey](https://www.nj.gov/education/certification/testing/req/index.shtml)

Grade Point Average (GPA) flexibilities shall not apply.