



Application Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

General Questions

1. Which registrant category should I apply for?

To help you determine which registrant category you should apply for please review information on the College's website [here](#) and complete the College's free online [Applicant Self-Assessment Tool](#) (ASAT). The College's [Credentialing Standard](#) provides specific information on the streams for each category that you can apply for. For internationally educated applications you will be applying under streams 2, 3 or 4.

2. My institution/program is not on the accredited list – can I still apply to be a registrant?

Yes. If your institution/program is not on the accredited list you can still apply through the other streams in for the registrant category. All registrant categories have different application streams. The College's [Credentialing Standard](#) provides specific information on the streams for each category that you can apply for.

3. How do I find out about the registrant categories, various streams and their associated requirements?

The registrant categories, various streams of entry and their requirements are detailed in the [Credentialing Standard](#). This information is also found in the College's free online [Applicant Self-Assessment Tool](#) (ASAT). The ASAT which allows prospective applicants to do self-evaluation of their credentials (education/training, work experience etc.) against the College's for all the categories and provides information on requirements. Requirement Checklists are also available for each registrant category.

4. Where can I find information on course requirements and what courses meet these requirements.

The [Credentialing Standard](#) provides detailed course requirements for each registrant category. The [Guidelines for Registered Professional Biologist \(RPBio\) /Biologist in Training \(BIT\) Course Assessment](#) document also provides a description of material courses should cover and examples of these course such as, numeracy and communications for RPBio/BIT applicants. However, you can do a self assessment of all your requirements for the category you wish to apply for in the College's free online [Applicant Self-Assessment Tool](#) (ASAT).

5. Can the College provide an assessment of my courses and other requirements prior to me submitting my application?

No. The College's assessment process follows strict standards this includes no pre-application review(s) or assessment(s) of an individual's credentials (e.g., courses, work experience, reports etc.) in advance of an application. This is to provide a fair and transparent process for all applicants and to protect the public interest, the College's mandate.

6. Is an applicant's academic performance (e.g., grades) considered when evaluating the education (e.g., transcripts, certificate) or training portion of their application?

No. The College does not evaluate passing grades; however, the education requirements must have been met such as the earning the degree, diploma or certificate and the courses required by the College taken and passed. The College only accepts a course(s) with a passing grade as meeting the course requirements.



7. **Can I apply before completing the required education?**

No. To apply for all registrant categories (minus the Student Biologist) an applicant must have completed the required education and have proof of education completed (e.g., degree, diploma has been conferred) before applying. There are other streams of entry for the RBTech and ABT designations that include various education requirements and do not require a diploma, certificate or course work. These are detailed in the [Credentialing Standard](#). There is also a Student Biologist category information is found [here](#).

8. **Do you need to live and/or be working in British Columbia at the time of application or once you are a registrant?**

An applicant does not have to be living or working in British Columbia or even Canada at the time of their application or even once registered with the College.

9. **What is the application and registration process and associated timelines?**

On average it takes 8 – 10 weeks from submission of an application to being registered if an application is approved. Detailed information on the application and registration process and associated timelines is found [here](#).

10. **Can an applicant make changes to the application that they've already submitted?**

Yes, however, once your application has been submitted you are not able to make changes to it. You must contact the College's Manager of Registration and Compliance at reg_manager@cab-bc.org to make changes or add any documents to your application.

Work Experience

11. **Can work experience be substituted for any portion of the educational requirements?**

Work experience cannot be substituted for any portion(s) of the educational requirements. All the various streams of entry and their requirements are detailed in the [Credentialing Standard](#). It is advisable to review this document as well making use of the College's free online [Applicant Self-Assessment Tool](#) (ASAT) which provides information on requirements and allows prospective applicants to do self-evaluation of their credentials (education/training, work experience etc.) against the College's requirements. Applicant checklists are also available for a quick self-assessment of each registrant category requirements.

12. **Can work experience such as, summer jobs or co-op internships while still at university or college count towards to the work experience requirement?**

No. Work experience including volunteer work experience has to have occurred post degree for all RPBio applicants, post diploma for RBTech Streams 1 and 2 applicants and post certificate for Streams 1 and 2 for ABT applicants. Volunteer work experience of up to 7 months can be used for RPBio applicants and up to 5 months for RBTech applicants. Stream 3 for RBTech and ABT have different requirements including on the job training details for these streams are found in the Credentialing Standard.

Report Criteria for RBTech and RPBio applicants

13. **What kinds of reports are accepted for the RPBio or RBTech application?**

The following reports are accepted. Please click on the links to read the associated guideline and information.



- Work Report (RPBio = Professional Report; RBTech: Data Report)
- Risk Assessment Reports
- Self-guided Report
- A Master’s Thesis
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Dissertation
- Peer reviewed journal articles

It is important that your report meets the associated requirements in the Credentialing Standard and demonstrates the regulated definition of practice of applied biology in the [Applied Biologists Regulations](#).

Note: there is no requirement that a report must be a Master’s Thesis, a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Dissertation or a peer reviewed journal article

14. What are the requirements for a professional or data report when applying to be an RPBio or RBTech?

Report requirements for RPBio and RBTech are summarized below and in the [Credentialing Standard](#). Reports written while an undergraduate student, such as an honours thesis, are not accepted as the College requires applicants to demonstrate competency in report writing conducted post education as part of their professional work experience.

RPBio Professional Report must demonstrate the applicant’s ability to:	RBTech Data Report must demonstrate the applicant’s ability to:
a) design a project;	a) document methods of data collection; and
b) implement a study design;	b) summarize and present data in a coherent and logical manner.
c) analyze data using inferential or descriptive statistical methods;	
d) draw conclusions; and	
e) make management recommendations.	

It is important that your report meets the requirements and demonstrates the regulated practice of applied biology as defined in the [Applied Biologists Regulations](#).

In Training Categories

15. Is it easier to become an RPBio, RBTech or ABT if I have previously been an associated in Training registrant such as a Biologist in Training (BIT), RBTech in Training or ABT in Training?

The benefit of being an in Training or Trainee registrant is that when you apply to be a practicing registrant for the associated category you are an in Training registrant for (e.g., ABT, RBTech or RPBio) only your work experience, professional practice competencies, references etc. are assessed. As your academic/education has already been assessed and approved by the College. This may shorten the timeline of your application assessment.

16. Is it a requirement to register as an in Training registrant such as, a BIT before becoming an RPBio?

There is no requirement to become an in Training (e.g., Biologist in Training, RBTech in Training or ABT in Training) registrant prior to becoming a practicing registrant such as, an RPBio, RBTech or ABT.



17. If I want to change status from a Registered Biology Technologist (RBTech) to an RPBio, do I first have to become a BIT?

If you are currently an RBTech or an ABT and you meet the requirements for an RPBio you can apply to become a RPBio without having to first be a Biologist in Training.

Fees

18. I have a fee related question. Who do I contact?

For general questions about fees refer to Schedule 2 of the [Bylaws](#), and the [applicant fee payment schedule](#) <https://www.cab-bc.org/application-fee-payment-schedule> Specific questions about your fees should be directed to the College's [Finance Officer](#).

Alberta Society of Professional Biologist (ASPB)

19. Can ASPB members can apply to the College?

Yes, however, only Professional Biologists (P.Biols) in good standing with ASPB can apply to the College and only for the Registered Professional Biologist (RPBio) registrant category.

20. Does an ASPB member need to pay for a CAB application?

Yes. There is an application fee for a Professional Biologist (P.Biol) from ASPB applying to be a Registered Professional Biologist (RPBio). Other information about applying to the College as an ASPB member can be found [here](#).

Internationally Educated/Trained Applicant

Please refer to Internationally Educated Applicant Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document for further answers to questions that pertain specifically to you an internationally educated/trained applicant.