

Guidance on Areas of Work Experience for Registered Professional Biologist Category

The practice of applied biology is very broad and can include a wide range of activities. The *College of Applied Biology Act* defines the practice of applied biology as follows:

Applied biological science means a biological science, including botany, zoology, ecology, biochemistry and microbiology, if the biological science is applied to the management, use, conservation, protection, restoration, or enhancement of

- (a) aquatic or terrestrial ecosystems, or
- (b) biological resources within these ecosystems;

Applied biology means the application of the applied biological sciences, including collecting or analyzing inventories or other data or carrying out of research or assessments, to design, evaluate, advise on, direct or otherwise provide professional or technical support to projects, works, undertakings or field practices on public or private lands, but does not include

- (a) pure scientific research, or
- (b) teaching;

To meet the professional work experience requirements, the work must involve biological focused activities and demonstrate that the applicant has progressed beyond following prescriptions to exercising professional level judgement and discretion.

Providing Work Experience Information in Your Application

How you communicate your work experience to the Credentials Committee is important. The Credentials Committee is looking for evidence of professional-level, work experience in applied biology where the applicant plays a lead role. Providing statements such as “conduct environmental assessments” or “monitoring” is simply too vague. Consider using wording that is more descriptive of the technical aspects of the work such as *develop and implement surveys of... and collect sample data describing... and conduct statistical analyses of... and manage staff involved in studies/assessments of...*

You can provide a CV or complete the [Work Experience](#) form provided by the College

The table below represents a list of activities that are generally considered acceptable work experience; this should not be considered an exhaustive list but one informed by discussions with past applicants.

Examples of Acceptable Work Experience	Examples of Not Acceptable Work Experience
Surveys of biotic components of terrestrial or aquatic ecosystems	Soil or hydrological surveys without consideration of the biotic component of ecosystems
Some forestry activities such as coarse woody debris assessments if all habitat components are considered	Coarse woody debris assessments that only look at the impact on harvestable biomass
Monitoring if the applicant has the authority to adapt or modify work in response to emerging issues and concerns	Monitoring after obtaining 1 year of work experience that is only an observer role
Post-harvest or reclamation plans or activities	Silviculture activities such as block layout, or stocking standard assessments
Contaminated site impact assessments which consider impact on biotic components	Contaminated site impact assessment which consider only contaminants in soil or water without consideration of biotic components
Preparation of teaching/interpretation materials used by instructors, guides or naturalists and interpretation	Instruction or guiding activities such as T/A in graduate school or activities as a naturalist
Application of geomatics and spatial analyses to ecological data	GIS activity that only includes cartography
Environmental engineering designed to protect or remediate biological resources investigated	Environmental engineering that considers only the abiotic properties of soil, water or air

Volunteer Experience

Volunteer experience of up to 7 months will be accepted as meeting work experience requirements. The volunteer experience must meet the same criteria as paid work experience. Volunteer roles can vary greatly in levels of responsibility and oversight. To ensure that the level of experience can be accurately assessed a separate reference form is required.

Volunteer experience must:

- be post degree; and
- meet the same criteria as paid work experience; it must be in applied biology, demonstrate progressive responsibility, and fall within the previous 10 years.
- Must use the [Volunteer Reference Form](#)