

FAQ

Preamble

In 2020 the College convened a Mandatory Training Task Force to produce policy and training recommendations for three courses:

- Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for new and existing registrants
- Indigenous Awareness training for new and existing registrants, and
- Legal requirements for new applied biology professionals.

The updated Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct course was completed in 2020 and the Indigenous Awareness course was completed in March 2022. The legal requirements course is under development. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the College Office.

What is the mandatory training requirement that supports reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in British Columbia?

Why does the College have a mandatory course on Indigenous Awareness?

Under the *Professional Governance Act (PGA)*, the College must establish requirements that support reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in British Columbia (Act sec. 57 (1) (f)). The mandatory training course will ensure that all applied biology professionals have a baseline level of training. As applied biology professionals frequently collaborate and engage with Indigenous businesses, communities and governments it is vital for practitioners to promote strong relationships and work towards reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in compliance with the PGA and the *BC Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

How was the Indigenous Awareness course developed?

The College Council convened a Task Force to provide recommendations on course material, including in support of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. The task force identified topic areas for inclusion in training for registrants, and recommended Indigenous Corporate Training's Indigenous Awareness course as the foundational training for registrants

The Indigenous Awareness course as a requirement for registration

Who has to take the Indigenous Awareness course right now?

New applicants to the College have had to pass the Indigenous Awareness course – in addition to the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct course – since April 2022 as a condition for registration with the College. Current registrants will also be required to take the course.







Do current registrants have to take the Indigenous Awareness course?

Yes, beginning in July 2022 registrants will be randomly selected and invited to take the Indigenous Awareness course. Registrants will continue to be identified in batches over the next two and a half years. Once a registrant has been selected course completion will be a requirement for maintaining registration with the College.




What is the timeframe for all current registrants to complete the Indigenous Awareness Course?

The College has determined that a phased rollout of the course is best for the infrastructure in place. The plan is to have all registrants complete the course in batches over a period of two and a half years (December 31, 2024). All registrants of the College will have completed both the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct course and the Indigenous Awareness course in order to gain or maintain registration.



-  *Can I take the Indigenous Awareness course before July 2022 or before I'm selected?*
Yes, you can. The course is available as of May 2022 and registrants may voluntarily complete the Indigenous Awareness and the updated Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct courses at any time.
-  *How much does it cost to take the Indigenous Awareness course?*
The Indigenous Awareness course costs \$50 for current registrants and the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct course is included no extra charge to come into compliance with the mandatory training requirements.
-  *I have already taken training courses covering Indigenous topics, do I have to take the Indigenous Awareness course through the College?*
Yes, Council has determined that the course is mandatory for all registrants to be in compliance with both the *Professional Governance Act* and the *BC Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.
-  *I identify as an Indigenous person, do I have to take the Indigenous Awareness course in order to register with the College?*
Yes, it is still a requirement. There are no exemptions to the requirement to complete the course.
-  *Do I still need to take the Indigenous Awareness course in addition to all the other courses I've taken as a condition of employment with the BC Public Service?*
Yes, the training is still a requirement. There are no exemptions to the requirement to complete the Indigenous Awareness course.
-  *Would the College recognize an equivalent course?*
The College Council determined that all registrants need to take a baseline course and selected Indigenous Awareness course as the foundation. We do not have the expertise to gauge what courses would be equivalent.

The Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct course as a requirement for registration

-  *Who has to take the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct course right now?*
New applicants to the College have had to pass the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct course since March 2021 as a condition for registration with the College. Current registrants will also be required to take the course.
-  *Do current registrants need to take the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct course?*
Yes, beginning in July 2022 registrants will be randomly selected and invited to take the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct course along with the Indigenous Awareness course. Registrants will continue to be identified in batches over the next two- and one-half years. Once a registrant has been selected, course completion will be a requirement for maintaining registration with the College.
-  *I've already taken a Code of Ethics Course offered by the College, do I have to take the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct course?*
Yes. The Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct course is new as of March 2021 and relates directly to the College's Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, which is Schedule 1 of the College bylaws. The course changed from earlier versions of the Code of Ethics course in order to come into compliance with the *Professional Governance Act* and the new Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct.