CBSP Criteria for Registration

Education and Experience
1. Master’s or doctorate in a biological science with 30 semester hours in microbiology and 4 years of full-time post-baccalaureate lab experience within the past 7 years; or
2. BS or BA in a biological science with 20 semester hours in microbiology and 7 years of full-time post-baccalaureate lab experience in the past 10 years; or
3. BS or BA in a biological science and 10 years of full-time post-baccalaureate lab experience in the past 15 years.

Application Process
- Obtain original transcripts
- Obtain minimum of 2 references
- Submit CBSP application

Review Process
- ABSA Office receives submittal and checks for completeness
- ABSA Office and the Credentialing Evaluation Board evaluate each candidate to ensure they meet the published criteria for experience and education
- ABSA Office sends acceptance/disapproval letter to candidate

CBSP Criteria for Registration

Education and Experience
Individuals must meet the CBSP criteria and pass the exam. Upon successful completion of the CBSP exam, individuals will become a Certified Biological Safety Professional.

Education and Experience
- Master’s degree or doctorate with 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours in microbiology and 4 years within the past 7 full-time post-baccalaureate experience as a professional with at least 50% time spent in biosafety program management
- Bachelor’s degree (BS or BA) with 20 semester hours or 30 quarter hours of microbiology and 7 years within the past 10 full-time post-baccalaureate experience as a professional with at least 50% time spent in biosafety program management
- Bachelor’s degree (BS or BA) with 6 semester hours or 9 quarter hours of microbiology* and 15 years within the past 20 full-time post-baccalaureate experience as a professional with at least 50% time spent in biosafety program management

Notes: CBSP requires recertification every 5 years through the ABSA credentialing Maintenance Board. CBSP is an ABSA credential.

For additional information and resources on biosafety, including requirements for RBP and CBSP contact:

ABSA International would like to thank and acknowledge the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) National Registry of Certified Microbiologist (NRCM) for their partnership in developing the exam for the Certified Biological Safety Professional (CBSP) certification.
Why Be Certified?

For years the practitioners of biosafety have come from many different disciplines. It was usually determined that there was a need for someone to oversee the institution’s biohazard operations. It was a position born out of necessity and was usually given over to either a senior research scientist with some background in microbiology or to the “safety guy” with no background in biological work. The field of biosafety has become defined and refined over the years. Research has become very complicated with rDNA work and highly infectious organisms, the threat of bioterrorism, and emerging diseases. Many institutions now require that individuals overseeing biohazard and rDNA work be competent, educated, and have proper experience.

Certified Biological Safety Professional (CBSP)

A CBSP must meet specific educational and experience requirements and pass a written exam developed and administered by ABSA International. Application requirements for the exam include transcripts, references, and work history. Certification is valuable for professional development. Recipients are recognized internationally for having sufficient knowledge and experience to qualify as a Certified Biological Safety Professional.

Registered Biosafety Professional (RBP)

An RBP is an individual with documented university education or specialized training in relevant biological safety disciplines and eligible for registration by the ABSA Credentialing Evaluation Board (CEB). Eligibility requirements include a minimum of 5 years of practical experience in biosafety or a combination of education and directly related work experience. Applicants must document examples of work related knowledge, skills, and abilities in the field of biosafety. The RBP understands sufficient cell biology, pathogenic microbiology, molecular genetics, and concepts of infectious transmission to enable them to apply safeguards to work with biohazardous materials.

RBP Criteria for Registration

Education

- Bachelor’s degree in biology-related field (may substitute 96 months of directly related biosafety experience for bachelor’s degree; cannot then use this towards experience requirement)
- Some microbiology-related courses are required (e.g., General Microbiology, Epidemiology, Pathogenic Microbiology, Molecular Biology)

Experience

- Five (5) years biosafety experience managing a comprehensive biosafety program
- MA or MS in relevant field (microbiology, biology, etc.) counts for 2 years towards 5-year requirement
- PhD in relevant field (microbiology, biology, etc.) counts for 3 years towards 5-year requirement
- Cannot combine degrees to account for more than 3 years towards experience

Application Process

- Submit original transcripts
- Submit a minimum of 2 references
- Submit the ABSA RBP application

Review Process

- ABSA Office receives submission and reviews for completeness
- Application packet reviewed by the 5 member Credentialing Evaluation Board (CEB)
- CEB evaluates candidate application and votes (requires 4 “yes” votes for approval)
- Chair prepares approval/disapproval letter and sends to ABSA Office
- ABSA Office records and sends the approval letter and certificate to the successful candidate

Notes: RBP requires recertification every 5 years through the ABSA Credentialing Maintenance Board. RBP is an ABSA credential.