



ABSA INTERNATIONAL

The Association for Biosafety and Biosecurity

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Credentialing Evaluation - FAQ

Registered Biosafety Professional (RBP) / Certified Biological Safety Professional (CBSP)

1. What is the difference between the Registered Biosafety Professional (RBP) credential and the Certified Biological Safety Professional (CBSP) credential? Do I need to obtain one before the other?

The RBP and CBSP are distinct and independent biosafety credentials. An RBP is not needed to obtain a CBSP or vice versa.

Registered Biosafety Professional (RBP): An RBP is an individual with documented university education or specialized training in relevant biological safety disciplines. Eligibility requirements include a minimum of 5 year- equivalents of practical experience in biosafety program management, or a combination of education and directly related work experience.

Certified Biological Safety Professional (CBSP): A CBSP meets specific educational requirements with a strong microbiology foundation (must have at least 3 semester hours) and biosafety program management experience. Professional experience will need to be demonstrated with at least 51% of time spent in biosafety program management or significant biosafety accountabilities.

2. Do I need to send in my application and application fee together?

No. However, the application materials will not be submitted to the Board for review until payment is received.

3. How does the Credentialing Evaluation Board (CEB) ensure unbiased review of credential application submissions?

The CEB evaluates each submission based on a transparent and uniform set of criteria; conflict of interest provisions have been established. Board members are approved by the ABSA Council and adhere to a high standard of professional integrity and ethics.

4. Can ABSA provide a specific course of study that will lead to registration or certification as a Biosafety Officer?

There are a few Biosafety Fellowship Programs available to help strengthen biosafety professionals. Some examples are:

- National Biosafety and Biocontainment Training Program ([NBBTP](#))
- The University of Chicago [Biosafety Training](#)

ABSA also offers several educational opportunities, including:

- Principles & Practices of Biosafety ([PPB](#)®)
- ABSA Biosafety and Biosecurity ([BBTC](#)®) Training Course
- Advanced Biosafety [Training Series](#)

Relevant Discipline is defined as a Physical Science (Chemistry, Earth Science, or Physics) or in the biological sciences, examples may include:

Biological Science

Affective Neuroscience	Cognitive Neuroscience	Microbiology
Anatomy	Computational Neuroscience	Molecular Biology
Animal Health Science	Conservation Biology	Neuroethology
Biochemistry	Cytology	Neuroscience
Biocomputers	Developmental Biology	Oncology
Biocontrol	Ecology	Parasitology
Biodynamics	Embryology	Pathology
Bioinformatics	Ethology	Pharmaceutical Science
Biology	Environmental Science	Pharmacogenomics
Biomaterials	Evolutionary Biology	Pharmacology
Biomechanics	Evolutionary Genetics	Physiology
Biomedical Engineering	Food Science	Plant Science
Biomedical Science	Genetics	Proteomics
Biomonitoring	Genomics	Structural Biology
Biophysics	Health Sciences	Systems Biology
Biopolymers	Immunogenetics	Toxicology
Bioprocess Technology	Immunology	Wildlife Biology
Biotechnology	Immunotherapy	Zoology
Cell Biology	Medical Technology	

A master’s in public health (MPH) is unlikely to satisfy the modification of the criteria unless it has a direct application to biological safety. An MPH in health or safety policy or management is not likely to be accepted. The course work required for each individual program will be taken into consideration and reviewed on a case-by-case basis for acceptability.

5. How do I show that as a consultant I have biosafety program management experience?

Obtain a written reference from the manager of the department(s) you are providing biosafety consulting services that:

- verify you are managing the biosafety program on behalf of their company (e.g., you are acting as the facility BSO)
- outline the scope of the biosafety program you manage. The reference should include how many hours per day, per week, per month you spend managing their program.

6. What does the Credentialing Evaluation Board (CEB) consider as acceptable ‘professional biological safety experience’?

To qualify as acceptable biosafety experience, the applicant’s principal responsibility must be in the management and direction of a biosafety program. Although biosafety program management does not need to be the applicant’s only responsibility. Refer to the next page for examples of program management.

Adequate Examples of Biorisk Program Management	Inadequate Examples of Biorisk Program Management
Approve Biorisk assessments involving work with infectious agents, GMOs, challenge animals, and plant pathogens. Recommend and approve risk mitigating control strategies.	Approve Risk Assessments
Biosafety Officer on facility IBC. Advise on risk mitigating control, Risk management and communication strategies. Approve Biorisk assessments for the facility.	Participate on an IBC
Write and deliver biosafety training including OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen, General Biosafety, Safe Work with Viral Vectors, How to run an IBC, Large Scale Biosafety, Agent Specific Biosafety Training, Biosafety Awareness Training for Maintenance, contract personnel, etc.	Perform training
Write and/or approve Biorisk management policy, procedures and/or SOPs for laboratories, large scale process areas and animal facilities handling infectious agents.	Implement laboratory SOPs and biosafety program
Represent Biosafety on Engineering Teams designing containment facilities including laboratory, animal facility or large scale. Ensure design criteria are adequate to mitigate risk of contamination spread. Participate on team to write Engineering Design Standards for the construction of laboratory, large scale, and animal facilities.	Participate on Engineering Project Teams

Note: A year-equivalent is one year of full-time biosafety experience. For an applicant with 50% of their work focused on biosafety, two years of professional experience would yield one year-equivalent of biosafety experience.

7. My application to become an RBP was initially denied by the Credentialing Evaluation Board (CEB). I now feel I have overcome the deficiency listed, what is needed to request reconsideration?

If your initial application was reviewed within the past 12 months, you need to submit a letter to the CEB to request reconsideration and you must supply any supporting documents that demonstrate you have met the deficiency. If more than 12 months have passed, you will need to submit the entire application packet (excluding your transcripts), including the application fee.

8. My request for reconsideration to become an RBP was denied. Is there an appeal process?

Any denial of credentials may be eligible for appeal by the applicant one time to the Credentialing Evaluation Board (CEB) as follows: If an applicant receives a denial of his or her application from the CEB, he or she may submit written notice to the CEB for reconsideration. If the applicant is not satisfied with the CEB's response, he or she may submit a written notice requesting an appeal to the ABSA President no later than 14-days after the denial is issued. The appeal must be based on a factual and or procedural issue with regard to the review and denial. No other issues or matters shall be considered.