



ABSA INTERNATIONAL

The Association for Biosafety and Biosecurity

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Professional Credentials in Biosafety

Changes to the applicant requirements – Effective July 1, 2025!

A summary of the changes are outlined below. Additionally, at the end of the document is a table to help facilitate review.

1. Expansion of the technical requirement for CBSP to include an academic course (at least 3 credit hours) from an accredited college or university in "molecular biology" **or** "microbiology."
2. Addition of technical course requirements to the RBP, like the CBSP, to include one academic course from an accredited college or university called "microbiology" or "molecular biology."
3. Changing the time in service requirements for the RBP
 - a. Nonbiological or related science major will need 120 month-equivalents of demonstrated time in service
 - b. BA/BS in biological or related science major will need 72 month-equivalents of demonstrated time in service
 - c. MS in biological or related science major will need 54 month-equivalents of demonstrated time in service
 - d. PhD in biological or related science major will need 36 month-equivalents of demonstrated time in service
4. Changing the time in service requirements for the CBSP
 - a. BA/BS will need 72 month-equivalents of demonstrated time in service
 - b. MS will need 54 month-equivalents of demonstrated time in service
 - c. PhD will need 36 month-equivalents of demonstrated time in service

A "month-equivalent" is equal to one month of full-time biosafety service. An applicant who provided biosafety service for less than 100% of the time would have their time reduced by the fraction of time spent providing other services (e.g., a person performing biosafety 50% of the time would earn 0.5 month-equivalents/month).

The proposed changes aim to reduce confusion for applicants applying for the RBP and CBSP. Harmonizing the experience requirements should make it easier for applicants to understand and communicate the credential requirements. It also is designed to reinforce the idea that the CBSP and RBP are equivalent, with the RBP emphasizing oversight of a comprehensive biosafety program, while the CBSP will continue to utilize the examination to confirm biorisk knowledge.

Finally, adding molecular biology courses to applicants' consideration reflects the changes in the biosafety field and the breadth of the experience needed in the area.

The changes will take place as of July 1, 2025. Any application that has not been completed, including references, by that date will need to meet the updated requirements.

	Current Requirements	Requirements as of July 1,2025	Current Requirements	Requirements as of July 1, 2025
Credential	RBP	RBP	CBSP	CBSP
Course Requirements	None	Requires one course called "microbiology" or "molecular biology"	Requires one course called "microbiology"	Requires one course called "microbiology" or "molecular biology"
Experience Requirements	No biological or related science major 156 month-equivalents (13 years)	No biological or related science major 120 month-equivalents (10 years)		
	BA/BS in biological or related sciences 60 month- equivalents (5 years)	BA/BS in biological or related sciences 72 month-equivalents (6 years)	BA/BS with 6 semester or 9 quarter credits of micro >50% effort in 15 of the last 20 years	BA/BS with 6 semester or 9 quarter credits of micro 72 month-equivalents (6 years)
	MS in biological or related sciences 36 month- equivalents (3 years)	MS in biological or related sciences 54 month-equivalents (4.5 year)	BA/BS with 20 semester or 30 quarter credits of micro >50% effort in 7 of the last 10 years	MS with 20 semester or 30 quarter credits of micro 54 month-equivalents (4.5 year)
	PhD in biological or related sciences 24 month-equivalents (2 years)	PhD in biological or related sciences 36 month-equivalents (3 years)	MS or PhD with 30 semester or 45 quarter credits of micro >50% effort in 4 of the last 7 years	PhD with 30 semester or 45 quarter credits of micro 36 month-equivalents (3 years)