

WHO MUST TAKE THE NEW JERSEY BIOLOGY COMPETENCY TEST (NJBCT)

- All New Jersey public high school students, regardless of grade level (grades 9-R12 and AH) who are enrolled in a biology course or content equivalent any time during the current school year, must take the NJBCT, regardless of prior testing exposure and experience. The following course titles are included as exemplars:
 - Resource Center Biology
 - ESL Biology
 - General Biology
 - Life Science
 - Foundations in Biology
 - College Prep Biology
 - Honors Biology
 - Accelerated Biology
 - Advanced Placement Biology (see below)
 - Integrated Science (see below)
 - Other (i.e., Cosmetology, Agricultural Science)

The additional criteria for participation in the NJBCT must be followed:

- Students taking *AP Biology* **without having completed** a Biology prerequisite **must** take the NJBCT.
- Students taking *AP Biology* **after completing** a Biology prerequisite must **not** take the NJBCT.
- Students taking *Integrated Science* as an **alternative** to the Biology offerings listed above **must** take the NJBCT.
- Students taking *Integrated Science* as a **prerequisite** course for a Biology elective must **not** take the NJBCT. These students will take the NJBCT during the school year that they are enrolled in a *Biology* elective.
- Adult high schools, the Department of Corrections, the Juvenile Justice Commission, and the Department of Children & Families facilities must take the NJBCT if they have any eligible students.

Districts are encouraged to align their biology course offerings with the New Jersey High School Biology/Life Science Syllabus. The syllabus can be downloaded from the NJDOE web site at:

www.state.nj.us/education/aps/cccs/science