

AP Biology: Updates for 2019-20

- To bring you and your students new classroom resources and supports, we're making updates to AP[®] Biology for the 2019-20 school year.
- These updates will give you a clearer sense of the content and skills that will be tested on the AP Exam. They'll also ensure that the exam format remains consistent from year to year.
- You won't need to update your syllabus in the AP Course Audit. You'll simply need to acknowledge the updates on your AP Course Audit form.
- Starting in August, you'll need to complete a simple digital activation process to access the new resources and help your students register for their exams.

Course Updates

AP Biology has been updated for the 2019-20 school year to make things clearer for you and your students, reduce scope, and better align with college-level expectations.

| Currently | Starting in 2019-20 |
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| <p>A course and exam description (CED) is available to help you plan your instruction.</p> | <p>Starting in late May 2019, you'll have access to an updated course and exam description (CED) that more clearly outlines all required course content and defines how that content will be assessed on the exam.</p> |
| <p>The current CED is organized conceptually, by big ideas.</p> | <p>The updated CED organizes the course into eight commonly taught units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Unit 1: Chemistry of Life▪ Unit 2: Cell Structure and Function▪ Unit 3: Cellular Energetics▪ Unit 4: Cell Cycle▪ Unit 5: Heredity▪ Unit 6: Gene Expression and Regulation▪ Unit 7: Natural Selection▪ Unit 8: Ecology <p>This series of units represents a sequence that is found in widely adopted college textbooks and that many AP Biology teachers have told us they follow. The four big ideas (Evolution, Energetics, Information Storage and Transmission, and Systems Interactions) are spiraled throughout these eight units.</p> <p>By organizing the course content and skills into units, we're able to give you and your students free formative assessments—personal progress checks—that you can assign throughout the year to measure student progress.</p> |

Course Updates (continued)

| Currently | Starting in 2019-20 |
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| | <p>The updated CED organizes the course into eight commonly taught units (continued). We want to respect your time and expertise by providing a road map you can modify and adapt to your local priorities and preferences. You can choose to follow this suggestion for how content can be sequenced and paced. As always, you'll have the flexibility to organize the course content as you like.</p> |
| <p>In the current CED, multiple learning objectives are connected to multiple essential knowledge statements.</p> | <p>Each learning objective is now clearly connected to specific essential knowledge statements. With this kind of specificity, you and your students will know how that content will be assessed on the AP Exam.</p> |
| <p>The current CED includes science practices in a separate section not specifically integrated with the course content.</p> | <p>The framework in the updated CED outlines more specific science practices that AP Biology students should practice throughout the year—skills that will help them learn to think and act like biologists. For example, students will analyze data and perform statistical tests.</p> |
| <p>AP Biology teachers have told us that there is too much content to teach thoroughly and thoughtfully in a single school year.</p> | <p>In collaboration with AP teachers and the AP Biology Development Committee, we are removing some content from the framework to make the course more manageable for you and your students. Specifically, the framework no longer includes Body Systems.</p> |

Exam Updates

Starting in the 2019-20 school year, the AP Biology Exam will have question types and point values that remain stable and consistent from year to year so that you and your students know what to expect on exam day.

| Currently (2019 Exam) | Starting with the 2020 Exam |
|--|---|
| <p>SECTION I: MULTIPLE CHOICE 69 Questions 1 Hour, 30 Minutes 50% of Exam Score</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The multiple-choice section currently includes 6 grid-in questions. | <p>SECTION I: MULTIPLE CHOICE 60 Questions 1 Hour, 30 Minutes 50% of Exam Score</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Grid-in questions have been removed. (Note that multiple-choice questions still assess mathematical calculations.) |
| <p>SECTION II: FREE RESPONSE 8 Questions 1 Hour, 30 Minutes 50% of Exam Score</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">2 long free-response questions6 short answer questions | <p>SECTION II: FREE RESPONSE 6 Questions 1 Hour, 30 Minutes 50% of Exam Score</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">2 long free-response questions4 short answer questions |

You'll find complete details about the updated AP Biology course and exam in the CED, available on AP Central® in late May 2019.

Print copies of the CED will be available in easy-to-use, customizable binders in June 2019.

Preorder your free copy at collegeboard.org/CED.

Visit collegeboard.org/APBio2019 for the most up-to-date information, including:

- A video overview of the AP Biology updates;
- More information about the new resources;
- A detailed timeline of what you can expect and when; and
- A video preview of the CED and unit guides.