



ADVANCED CERTIFICATION IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE K-12 TEACHING

Alternate Route Leading to NJ Standard Instructional Certificate as a Teacher of Biological Sciences

- I. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** The Advanced Certification in Biological Science K-12 Teaching non-degree program provides a pathway for practicing teachers to earn an additional certification as a Teacher of Biological Sciences, a high need area both nationally and in the state of New Jersey. Candidates with a Standard Certificate or Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing in another area, and a minimum of two years of successful full-time teaching as a classroom teacher, may apply for this alternative pathway to science teaching.

Once students have earned six approved credits in biological sciences and have an offer of employment to teach biology in a New Jersey public school, the GSE will nominate them for a Certificate of Eligibility (CE) in Biological Science with the New Jersey Department of Education. Students enrolled in the program, while teaching biological science in a New Jersey public school, will develop an advanced understanding of life science content and the pedagogical content knowledge necessary to teach biological sciences by taking research-driven core courses, led by expert faculty. Students will develop content knowledge while learning how to employ research-based instructional methods that help students develop knowledge through engagement in the practices of science.

While enrolled in this 30-credit program, candidates will be eligible to teach biology under a Certificate of Eligibility (CE)/ Provisional Certification. Upon successful program completion, candidates will be recommended for a NJ Instructional Certificate as a Teacher of Biological Sciences.

- II. APPLICATION DEADLINES:** No applications can be admitted less than two weeks before the beginning of the semester in which the program will be started. Applications must be submitted and completed at least two weeks before the beginning of the semester.
- III. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:** To be considered for admission to the program, applicants must provide the following:
1. A statement of program intent
 2. Undergraduate transcripts
 3. Verification of experience from the applicant's current or previous supervisor or HR department, on school district letterhead, certifying the completion of two years of successful, full-time classroom teaching employment under an instructional certificate
 4. Electronic copy of a New Jersey Standard Instructional Certificate or Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing in an area other than Biological Sciences

Note: Candidates who enroll in the program will be sponsored for a Certificate of Eligibility (CE) from the NJDOE in Teacher of Biological Sciences and must have an offer of employment under that certificate. Interested applicants are encouraged to attend an information session.

IV. HOW TO APPLY: Applications are submitted online at the Graduate Admissions website:

<https://newbrunswickgrad.rutgers.edu/>

1. Click on "Create Account or Login" and follow the instructions given.
2. Under "Start an application today!", click **Apply Now**
Application Selection
3. For "Level of Application", select **Graduate**
4. For "Applicant Type", select **Certificate**
5. Continue filling out the application, following the on-screen instructions.
Program of Study
6. Under "Program Information", make sure **Certificate** is selected for "Applicant Type"
7. For "Area of Study", select **Education**
8. For "Location/Instructional Method", select **New Brunswick**
9. For "Program Selection", select **Education – Advanced Licensure in Biological Science K-12 Teaching Certification (Endorsement) New Brunswick**
10. Complete the rest of the application by providing the requested information.
11. Supporting materials should be submitted online. Materials that must be mailed should be addressed to: Office of Graduate and Professional Admissions, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Proctor Hall, Suite 308, 65 Davidson Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854, U.S.A.
12. Enter payment information for the non-refundable application fee.
13. Submit your application.

Applicants are responsible for reviewing and confirming that they meet program requirements **before** the application is submitted. Rutgers Graduate School of Education **WILL NOT** refund the application fee if an applicant is not accepted.

When the entire application process is complete, admitted students will be contacted by an advisor to establish a personalized program plan. The student is responsible for enrolling in all required courses through Rutgers University. **No program requirements may be met at any other institution.** Students are expected to maintain a "B" or better average as a non-degree student in the program. Accepted students will have 5 years to complete the program. Continuation in the program is contingent upon earning a Certificate of Eligibility (CE) in Biological Science and employment as a Teacher of Biological Science in a New Jersey public school.

The program requires 30 credits of biological science and science education coursework but does not lead to a graduate degree. If the student decides to apply to the Ed.M. in Science Education, they must formally apply to the master's program.

After completing all program requirements, students should contact Ken Tufo Jr. at ken.tufo@gse.rutgers.edu. Students will be provided instructions on how to apply for their license(s).

V. PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS:

	Course Number	Course Name	Credits
Required	15:256:550	Biology and Society	3
	15:256:553	Teaching and Assessment in Life Science	3
	15:256:561	Demonstrations and Technology in Life Science	3
Select 5	15:256:530	The Brain: Course for Educators	15
	15:256:531	Genetics, Genomics, and Genethics: Course for Educators	
	15:256:532	The Diversity of Fishes: Course for Educators	
	15:256:533	Ecology, Ecosystem Dynamics and Conservation: Course for Educators	
	15:256:534	Evolution: Course for Educators	
	15:256:535	Dinosaurs and Birds: Course for Educators	
	Electives	Biology Electives	6
Total Credits			30

- VI. HIB TRAINING:** All candidates for certification must complete pre-service training in the prevention of harassment, intimidation, and bullying (HIB).
- VII. PRAXIS II TESTS:** At program completion, students seeking certification in biological sciences must achieve passing scores on the Biology: Content Knowledge (test code 0235/5235) and General Science: Content Knowledge (test code 0435/5435) Praxis II examinations. **Students must pass both tests prior to applying for a New Jersey Instructional Certificate (CEAS or Standard).**