



Alberta Society of Professional Biologists

**Registration
Policy Handbook**

**For Professional Biologists,
Registered Biologists and Technologists**

July 2023

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Introduction

The Registration Committee of the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists (ASPB) reviews applications to the ASPB and decides whether to accept, defer or refuse registration to applicants who apply for a Professional Biologist (P. Biol.) or Biologist-in-Training (BIT) registration in accordance with the Professional Biologists Regulation. The Registration Committee also reviews applications for registration in two unregulated registered categories: Registered Biologist (R. Biol.) and Registered Biologist in Training (RBIT). The registration committee will also review applications for Registered Technologist in Biology (R.T.Biol.) and Biological Technologist in Training (BTT) Registration. Applicants approved will be non-regulated until such time that the regulations are amended.

This document is the means of the Board providing direction to the Executive Director on the processes and regulatory framework to be followed by the Registration Committee in reviewing applications. Details as to how these processes and guidelines are implemented are recorded by the Registration Committee in its minutes.

In the interests of fairness and transparency, this document will be publicly available on the ASPB website.

This document establishes the processes and regulatory framework to be followed by the Registration Committee in carrying out its responsibilities. It is intended

- to document Board direction so all applications are reviewed consistently regardless of the individuals who are present at Committee meetings; and
- to inform applicants about the processes and regulatory framework used by the Registration Committee in its deliberations.

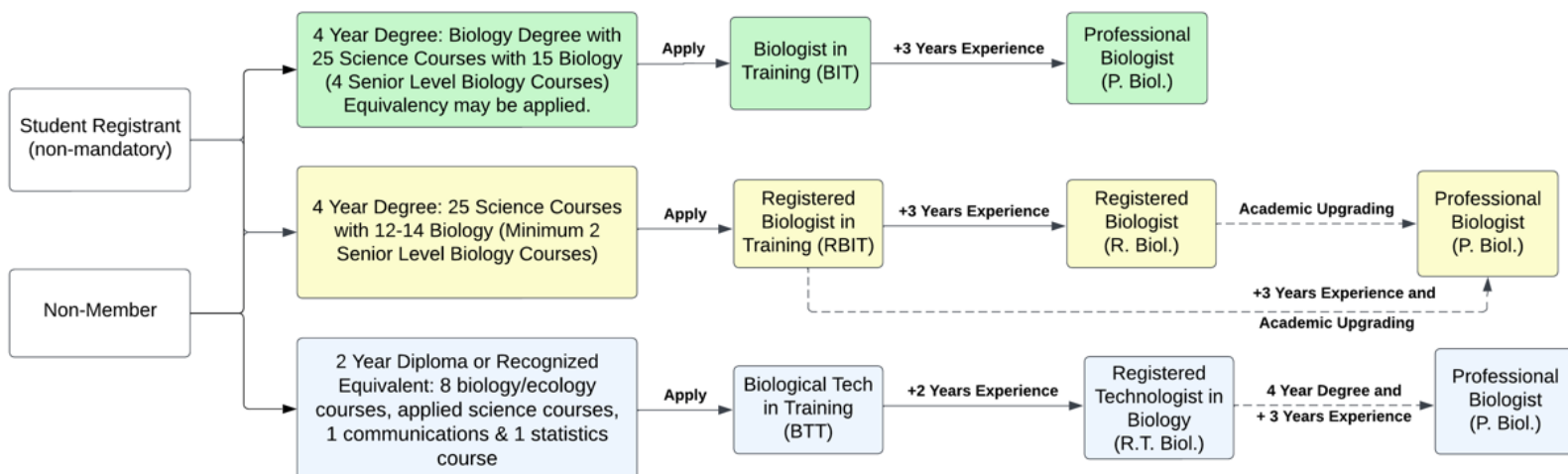
This document further demonstrates the efforts of the ASPB to register, and regulate those Registrants, who engage in the “practice of Biology” as described in the Professional Biologists Regulation.

The ASPB Considers “The practice of biology involves all aspects of work related to living organisms, living systems and their ecosystems.” (ASPB Board of Directors, August, 2023)

Disclaimer

In the event of any discrepancy between the information on this page and the [Fair Registration Practices Act](#) (including the [Fair Registration Practices Code](#)), the [Professional and Occupational Associations Registration Act](#), the [Professional Biologists Regulation](#), and the [Alberta Society of Professional Biologists By-Laws](#), legislation will always prevail.

ASPB Registration Pathways



Important Information and Definitions:

- 1) **Degree:** A four-year (40 course or 120 course credits) BSc awarded by a Canadian post-secondary institution comprised of approximately 1800 hours of formal lecture or seminar time instruction (time in labs or lab courses are not counted in the total hours).
 - a) **Biology Degree:** Undergraduate degree (as above), or postgraduate degree, in a biological science which includes the biological disciplines of Botany, Zoology, Environmental Biology and Microbiology, and includes all sub-disciplines of these biological disciplines.
- 2) **Diploma:** Generally, a two-year degree (20 course or 60 course credits) awarded by a Canadian post-secondary institution comprised of approximately a minimum of 900 hours of formal lecture or seminar time instruction, that includes at least eight biology/ecology courses, and 5 applied science courses, and at least one communications and one statistics course (lab time is not included in total hours).
- 3) **Academic Upgrading:** Take courses to meet academic requirements (check educational requirements under registration category) - courses must be part of a degree/diploma granting program.
- 4) **Course** – one semester course, In Alberta, a one semester course consists of 36 to 39 hours of lecture and is weighted as 3 credits.
 - a) An acceptable biological content course is a science course deemed to be greater than 50% biological in content.
 - b) A science course is generally delivered by the Science department of a post secondary institution, includes biology, chemistry, math, physics, and other subjects as identified by the RC.
- 5) **Equivalency** is only available to P. Biol. and BIT applications in accordance with Biologist Regulations 9.b and 11.b. Equivalency is applied to make up course content in Biological Sciences and not to be used to make up credit shortfalls is educational requirements.

- 6) **Equivalency** is the conversion of appropriate biological experience to acceptable biological content courses (only applications for BIT and P Biol are eligible for equivalency). Generally, the conversion is 6 months of FTE appropriate biological experience for per junior course and 12 months of FT appropriate biological experience for each per senior course. Generally, full time equivalent (FTE) experience is accepted to be 37.5 hours a week.
- 7) **Experience** - Applicants may apply directly for P. Biol., R.T. Biol., and R. Biol. without going through the "Student" or "in training" categories first, if the applicant feels that their experience meets the required minimum (it may take more than 3 years of employment to make up 3 years of practicing Biology).
 - a) For P. Biol. applicants only, a M.Sc or Ph.D each may count as 1 year of experience (must demonstrate biological nature of course work and thesis).
 - b) Full time Employment is considered greater than 30 hours per week.

For any inquiries or to seek further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact info@aspb.ab.ca.

Process:

- 1) Read the complete **Registration Policy Handbook**
- 2) Choose the appropriate application pathway
- 3) Open Application with the ASPB [here](#) on the aspb.ab.ca website.
- 4) Fill out personal details
- 5) Declare Education and arrange for Educational documentation to be sent directly to the ASPB
 - a) Canadian Post-Secondary Transcripts - Institutions can be sent by mail or electronically to the ASPB office:

Alberta Society of Professional Biologists
370, 105 12 Ave SE
Calgary, AB T2G 1A1
 - b) International Post-Secondary Transcripts – Must have a SPECIALIZED ASSESSMENT by [IQAS](#) or a Comprehensive Course-by-Course Report from [WES](#) sent directly to the ASPB office (Thesis based degrees with no courses may submit a base assessment):

Alberta Society of Professional Biologists
370, 105 12 Ave SE
Calgary, AB T2G 1A1
- 6) Declare areas of Practice and fill out Practice of Biology Document
 - a) This is a requirement for P. Biol., R. Biol., and R.T. Biol.
 - b) This is optional for all in training categories
 - c) This may be requested for optional (in-training) categories to support assessment

- 7) Request References to submit Referral Letters through the application portal.
 - a) Contact reference to secure participation.
 - i) Ensure the reference can comment on your work, character, and ethics.
 - ii) One of them must be a member of a regulated professional association (P.Eng., P. Ag., P.Chem., RPF), with a strong preference for a P.Biol.
 - iii) One of your references should be from your current or past supervisor, and at least one reference should be from someone outside your current place of work.
 - iv) Be mindful of situations where a conflict of interest in the reference may be identified and another reference may be requested.
 - v) References must not be a blood-relative (Spouse/Partner, sibling, child, parent)
 - b) Input reference emails in the portal, the database will contact the referee.
- 8) Your application will be placed in a queue for review by the Office of the Registrar
- 9) Upon review, the application will be either:
 - a) Deemed to be complete and placed in front of the Registration Committee for review.
 - b) Or, deemed to be incomplete and you will be contacted directly to supply any missing information or respond within 30 days;
 - i) Upon supplying the requested information, the application will be placed in front of the Registration Committee
 - ii) If no response or action is taken the application may;
 - (1) Be placed in front of the Registration Committee, if deemed complete enough to be assessed
 - (2) Be deemed Abandoned, if critical information is not supplied (transcripts, up to date documentation)
- 10) The applicant will be notified of the decision of the Registration Committee;
 - a) The application is approved, or
 - b) The application is deferred and requires supplementary information, or
 - c) The application is denied.
- 11) Upon Approval – the applicant must complete the acceptance of the offer of registration by paying the registration fee and filling out any required information, forms, tests, or examinations.
- 12) Upon Deferral – the applicant must respond to the request for further information or conditions to move the assessment forward.
- 13) Upon Denial the applicant will be provided with the reasons of the decision, the requirements to become successful in a future application, and a process to appeal the decision.

Regulatory Framework

The Registration Committee operates under requirements outlined in the *Professional and Occupational Associations Registration Act* (POARA), the *Professional Biologists Regulation*, and the ASPB Bylaws. Some sections of those documents that are of particular interest to members of the Registration Committee are included below. Full copies of POARA and the Regulations can be downloaded from <http://www.aspb.ab.ca/about#regulation-and-bylaws>.

Professional and Occupational Associations Registration Act

The *Professional and Occupational Associations Registration Act* (POARA) is the provincial legislation that

- provides for professional associations to be established in Alberta (S 4);
- enables a professional association to establish a Registration Committee (S 16);
- provides right-to-title for members of professional associations (S 43), provides for fines and/or prison terms for individuals who misrepresent themselves (S 44), and allows for a Court to grant an injunction for using the title in contravention of the POARA (S 45); and
- provides members of the Registration Committee with protection from action if they act in good faith (S 46(1)).

Professional Biologists Regulation

The *Professional Biologists Regulation* is created under POARA. It includes the October 2009 amendment to Section 9 (9c), which allows applicants to be registered as a professional biologist if they are “registered in another Canadian jurisdiction as member in good standing of a professional association that is recognized by the Board as being substantively equivalent to the Association”.

Sections of the Professional Biologists Regulation relevant to the Registration Committee include the following:

Definitions

1 *In this Regulation,*

- (c) *“Association Registrar” means the Registrar of the Association appointed under the bylaws;*
- (d) *“biological sciences” means the biological disciplines of Botany, Zoology, Environmental Biology and Microbiology, and includes all sub-disciplines of these biological disciplines;*
- (e) *“biologist-in-training” means a person who holds a certificate of registration and an annual certificate as a biologist-in-training under this Regulation;*
- (h) *“competence” means the combined knowledge, skills, abilities and judgment required to provide professional biologist services;*
- (j) *“honorary member” means a person who holds a certificate of registration and an annual certificate as an honorary member under this Regulation;*

- (k) *“non-regulated member” means a person whose name is entered in the register maintained under section 3(1)(d);*
- (l) *“practice of biology” means*
 - (i) *inventorying, surveying, sampling, interpreting, reporting, evaluating and advising on activities related to biological sciences,*
 - (ii) *preparing, administering and implementing plans or programs for managing biological resources,*
 - (iii) *conducting research activities related to biological sciences, and*
 - (iv) *teaching biological sciences at a university, college or technical institute;*
- (m) *“Practice Review Committee” means the Practice Review Committee established pursuant to section 12;*
- (n) *“professional biologist” means a person who holds a certificate of registration and an annual certificate as a professional biologist under this Regulation;*
- (o) *“registered member” means a professional biologist, an honorary member or a biologist-in-training;*
- (p) *“Registration Committee” means the Registration Committee established pursuant to section 2.*

Registration Committee

- 2(1)** *The Registration Committee is established consisting of at least 3 professional biologists, one of whom must be designated as chair.*
- (2)** *The Registration Committee must be appointed by the Board in accordance with the bylaws.*
- (3)** *The Registration Committee must meet at the call of the chair.*
- (4)** *A quorum at a meeting of the Registration Committee is at least 3 of its members.*

Registers

- 3(1)** *The Association Registrar must maintain, in accordance with this Regulation and the bylaws, and subject to the direction of the Board,*
 - (a) *a register of professional biologists,*
 - (b) *a register of honorary members,*
 - (c) *a register of biologists-in-training, and*
 - (d) *a register of non-regulated members.*

(2) *The Association Registrar must enter in the appropriate register*

- (a) the name of an individual who has paid the fee prescribed by the bylaws, and whose registration has been approved by the Registration Committee or the Board, and*
- (b) the business address of that individual.*

Powers and duties of Registration Committee

4(1) *The Registration Committee must consider applications from persons to become registered members of the Association in accordance with this Regulation and the bylaws and may*

- (a) approve the registration,*
- (b) refuse to approve the registration, or*
- (c) defer approval until the applicant has satisfied the requirements under section 9.*

(2) *The Association Registrar must send a written notice of any decision made by the Registration Committee to the applicant.*

(3) *If the decision made by the Registration Committee is to refuse the registration of the applicant, written reasons for the decision, and notification of the appeal process, must be sent to the applicant.*

Review of application

5(1) *An applicant whose application for registration is refused by the Registration Committee may, by notice in writing served on the Association Registrar within 30 days of receiving a notice of refusal and the reasons for it, appeal the refusal to the Board.*

(2) *The notice of appeal must set out the reasons why, in the applicant's opinion, the application for registration should be approved.*

(3) *An applicant who appeals a decision of the Registration Committee under this section*

- (a) must be notified in writing by the Association Registrar of the date, place and time that the Board is to hear the appeal, and*
- (b) is entitled to appear with counsel and make representations to the Board when it hears the appeal.*

(4) *A member of the Registration Committee who is also a member of the Board may participate in the appeal but shall not vote on a decision of the Board under this section.*

(5) *On hearing an appeal under this section, the Board may make any decision the Registration Committee may make, and must notify the applicant of its decision.*

Registration as professional biologist

9 *An applicant who is of good character and reputation is entitled to be registered as a professional biologist if the applicant*

- (a) has at least 3 years of work experience acceptable to the Registration Committee and produces documentation satisfactory to the Committee showing that the applicant has obtained an undergraduate or graduate degree in biological sciences from an educational institute that is acceptable to the Committee,*
- (b) satisfies the Registration Committee that the applicant has a combination of education, training, experience, examinations and other qualifications that demonstrates the competence required for registration, or*
- (c) is registered in another Canadian jurisdiction as a member in good standing of a professional association that is recognized by the Board as being substantively equivalent to the Association.*

Registration as biologist-in-training

11 *An applicant is entitled to be registered as a biologist-in-training if the applicant*

- (a) produces documentation satisfactory to the Registration Committee showing that the applicant has obtained an undergraduate or graduate degree in biological sciences from an educational institute that is acceptable to the Committee,*
- (b) satisfies the Registration Committee that the applicant has a combination of education, training, experience, examinations and other qualifications that demonstrates the competence required for registration, or*
- (c) is registered in another Canadian jurisdiction as a member in good standing of a professional association that is recognized by the Board as being substantively equivalent to the Association.*

Powers and duties of Practice Review Committee

13 *The Practice Review Committee must, at the request of the Board, inquire into and report to and advise the Board in respect of*

- a. the assessment and development of educational standards and experience requirements that are conditions precedent to registration as a professional biologist,*
- b. the evaluation of desirable standards of competence of professional biologists generally,*
- c. any other matter that the Board from time to time considers necessary or appropriate in connection with the exercise of its powers and the performance of its duties in relation to competence in the practice of biology under this Regulation, and*
- d. the practice of biology generally.*

Cancellation and suspension

17(1) *The registration of a registered member is cancelled or suspended when the decision to cancel or suspend the registration is made in accordance with the Act or this Regulation.*

(2) *The Association Registrar must enter a memorandum of the cancellation or suspension of the registration in the appropriate register indicating*

- (a) *the date of the cancellation or suspension,*
- (b) *the period of the suspension, and*
- (c) *the nature of any finding under Part 3 of the Act.*

(3) *If the registration of a registered member is cancelled, the person whose registration is cancelled must, on request, surrender to the Association Registrar all documents and materials relating to the registration.*

Cancellation on request

18 *The Association Registrar shall not cancel the registration of a registered member at the request of the registered member unless the request for cancellation is approved by the Board.*

Use of title

21 *A professional biologist may use the title “Professional Biologist” and the abbreviations “P. Biol.” and “P Biol”.*

Alberta Society of Professional Biologists Bylaws

The Alberta Society of Professional Biologists Bylaws are established by the ASPB, approved by the Membership and can only be changed at the Annual General Meeting. Excerpts from the Bylaws relevant to the Registration Committee include:

2.01 Membership.

The Association is open to all qualified Biologists and desire to advance the interests of the profession and protect the public.

The Board may make rules respecting the Members from time to time which shall be published by the Secretary of the Association and followed by the Members.

2.03 Membership Registers.

Members shall be enrolled in one of three (3) registers:

2.03.1 Professional Biologist.

Membership as a Professional Biologist may be granted to an applicant who has satisfied the requirements under the Regulation. Professional Biologists have a vote in the affairs of the Association and may hold office as a Director or Officer. Only Professional Biologists may use the restricted title Professional Biologist or the abbreviations P. Biol. and P Biol.

2.03.2 Biologist-in-Training.

Membership as a Biologist-in-Training may be granted to an applicant who has completed all of the academic requirements for a Professional Biologist as defined in the Regulation but is deficient in experience as determined by the Registration Committee. The Biologist-in-Training does not have a vote.

2.03.3 Non-regulated Members.

The Registrar shall create a register of non-regulated members. The Association is not responsible for these members regarding the responsibilities and accountabilities under the Act, Regulation and Bylaws. Non-regulated members do not have a vote. Non-regulated members shall be enrolled as one of following categories:

2.03.3.1 Registered Biologist

The Registrar may enroll as a Registered Biologist an applicant who fully meets the academic requirements in the Registration Policy and the experience requirements defined in the Regulation.

2.03.3.2 Registered Biologist-in-Training

The Registrar may enroll as a Registered Biologist-in-Training an applicant who has completed all of the academic requirements of a Registered Biologist as defined in the Registration Policy but is deficient in experience as determined by the Registration Committee.

2.03.3.3 Registered Technologist in Biology

The Registrar may enroll as a Registered Technologist in Biology an applicant who fully meets the academic requirements in the Registration Policy and the experience requirements defined in the Regulation.

2.03.3.4 Biological Technologist in Training

The Registrar may enroll as a Biological Technologist in Training an applicant who has completed all of the academic requirements of a Registered Technologist in Biology as defined in the Registration Policy but is deficient in experience as determined by the Registration Committee.

2.03.3.5 Student Member.

The Registrar may enroll as a Student Member an applicant who has submitted evidence to them that the applicant is enrolled in a degree or diploma granting institute in a course program leading to a degree or diploma with a focus on the biological sciences.

2.03.3.6 Temporary Withdrawn Biologist.

The Registrar may enroll as a Temporary Withdrawn Biologist a Professional Biologist who wishes to withdraw temporarily from the Association. Within a period of two years from the notification, any Temporary Withdrawn Biologist in good standing will be reinstated as a Professional Biologist upon written application to the Registrar and payment of applicable fees.

A Temporary Withdrawn Member in good standing may request to be enrolled as an Associated Biologist at any time during the two-year period upon written request to the Registrar.

2.03.3.7 Associated Biologist.

The Registrar shall enroll as an Associated Biologist an applicant who was a Professional Biologist or a Temporary Withdrawn Biologist but who has voluntarily withdrawn from the practice of biology or submits evidence that they will no longer practice in the Province of Alberta but wish to remain affiliated with the Association. To be re-instated as a Professional Biologist, an Associated Biologist must re-apply to the Association and pay the required fees for registration.

2.03.3.8 Honorary Biologist.

The Association may admit to its Register an individual who is not a regulated professional member or is not able to meet the professional requirements as a regulated professional member, but who has made a significant contribution over their lives to the understanding of natural history and biology, by recognizing and conferring the title “Honorary Biologist” for such contributions. No fees will be collected from such honored members.

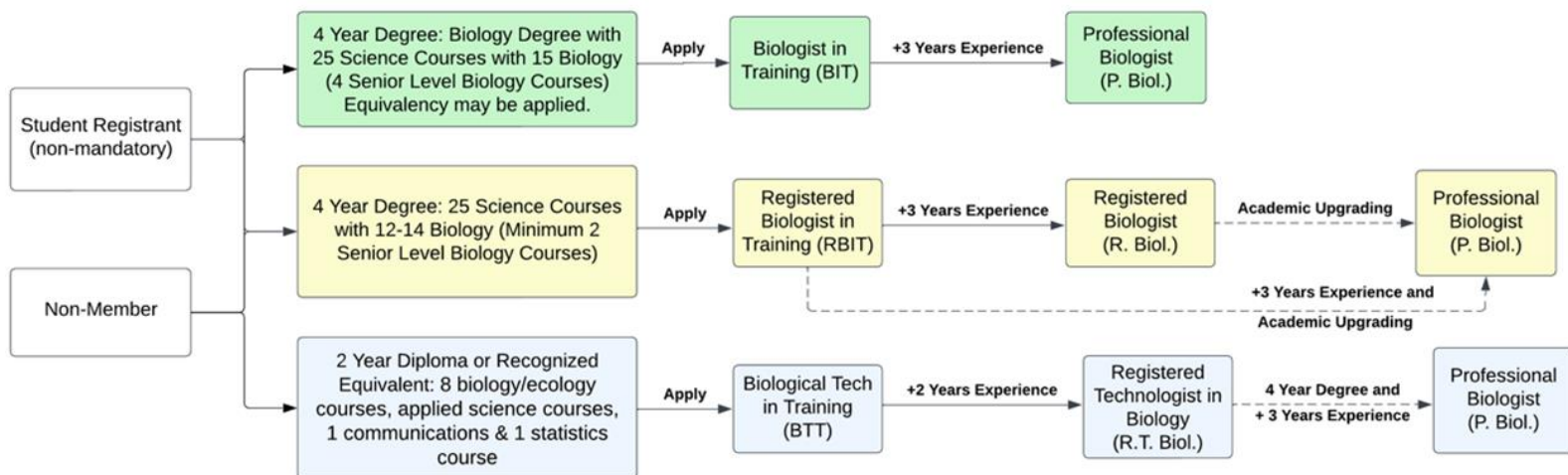
2.06 Re-instatement of Members.

The Board may direct the Registrar to send a notice to any members who do not pay fees including any late renewal fees within two (2) months of the due date. The notice may provide that the member’s Membership will be cancelled unless all outstanding fees are paid within thirty (30) days following receipt of the notice. To be reinstated as a member after cancellation under this section the former member must reapply to the Association and pay all applicable fees.

6.06 Association Registrar.

In particular, the Board must appoint an Association Registrar who shall have the duties and responsibilities set out in the Act and such other duties as may be delegated to the Registrar by the Board.

ASPB Registration Pathways



Registration Criteria – Biologist-in-Training

Good Character – BIT

Demonstrate Good Character through declarations within the application process.

Academics – BIT

Applicants must meet the Academic requirements under the Registration Criteria of a Professional Biologist.

Biologist-in-Training are eligible to be review under the Professional Biologists Regulation, Section 11.b (Equivalency). See Registration Criteria of a Professional Biologist for details, Equivalency for Professional Biologists.

Registration Criteria – Professional Biologist

Good Character – P. Biol.

Three letters of reference are required for each application, one being from a regulated professional. The letters must demonstrate that the applicant is of good character and reputation in the practice of biology.

Where an applicant is new to Canada, the applicant must provide a reference who is a recognized professional in their field who can speak to the applicant's character and reputation.

Academics – P. Biol.

Any applicant with academic credentials from outside of Canada must have a specialized assessment showing listing of courses completed from a recognized accreditation service. The assessment must provide details of equivalency of current academic standards.

Professional Biologist or Biologist in Training

- 1) Undergraduate four-year (120 course credits) degree or postgraduate degree in a biological science which includes sub-discipline or specialization fields such as botany, zoology, microbiology, and environmental biology from a Canadian university or other educational institute that is acceptable to the registration committee
 - a) If it is not a degree in biological sciences acceptable by the registration committee, then it must be a four-year (120 course credits) degree in pure or applied science where at least 15 courses must be biological science courses with at least 4 biological science courses that are advanced (third year or higher).
- 2) Graduate degree in biological sciences from a Canadian university or other educational institution

Experience – P. Biol.

- 3) Applicants for Professional Biologist or Registered Biologist must have three years of experience in biology in the previous ten years.

The “practice of biology” is defined in Section 1(l) of the *Professional Biologists Regulation* as

- (i) *inventorying, surveying, sampling, interpreting, reporting, evaluating and advising on activities related to biological sciences,*
- (ii) *preparing, administering and implementing plans or programs for managing biological resources,*
- (iii) *conducting research activities related to biological sciences, and*
- (iv) *teaching biological sciences at a university, college or technical institute.*

Experience in biology may also be evidenced by

- i. Preparing, administering and implementing *policies*, plans or programs for managing biological resources,
- ii. Assessing compliance with Acts, regulations, directives, standards and guidelines related to biological sciences and environmental support systems, and
- iii. The conservation, decommissioning, reclamation, remediation and improvement of the environment.

Applicants are welcome to identify other areas of biological experience not included above in their applications.

- a) For P. Biol. applicants only, a M.Sc or Ph.D each may count as 1 year of experience (must demonstrate biological nature of course work and thesis).
- b) Full time Employment is considered greater than 30 hours per week.
- c) It may take more than 3 years of employment to make up 3 years of practicing Biology.

Equivalency for Professional Biologists

The *Professional Biologists Regulation, Section 9.b*, allows the Registration Committee to approve an applicant for P. Biol. if the Registration Committee is satisfied “that the applicant has a combination of education, training, experience, examinations and other qualifications that demonstrates the competence required for registration”. Candidates who are considered under these criteria must demonstrate a quality and length of experience above that required for other applicants.

As a general guideline, the Registration Committee will consider an applicant for **Professional Biologist** who meets the following:

- 4) Must have completed a four-year (120 course credits) degree in pure or applied science
 - a) Where the applicant does not meet 15 biology course requirement but has a minimum of 10 Biology courses (with 2 being senior level), the applicant must demonstrate competency gained through work experience for missing courses (content only, total post-secondary credit must meet 120 credits or greater). The approach required to demonstrate course equivalency is as follows:

- i) Equivalency is the conversion of appropriate biological experience to acceptable biological content courses (only applications for BIT and P Biol are eligible for equivalency). Generally the conversion is 6 months of FTE appropriate biological experience for per junior course and 12 months of FT appropriate biological experience for each per senior course. Generally, full time equivalent (FTE) experience is accepted to be 30 hours a week.
 - (1) Missing Junior Biology course content: one course (3 credits)= 6 months relevant work experience. (Maximum of 5 Junior courses can be fulfilled through equivalency)
 - (2) Missing Senior Biology course content: one course (3 credits)= 12 months relevant work experience. (Maximum of 2 Senior courses can be fulfilled through equivalency)
 - (3) A total of 5 courses can be fulfilled through equivalency
- 5) One of the three references submitted must be from a P. Biol. who, in addition to speaking to the applicant's good character and reputation, can speak to the applicant's knowledge and work experience relevant to the missing course(s).
- 6) Must demonstrate additional training undertaken since graduating.

BC CAB Registered R.P. Biol.

Registration as a recognized professional with a recognized Professional Regulatory Organization.

- a) The ASPB Board has recognized the British Columbia College of Applied Biologists (BC- CAB) as being substantively equivalent to ASPB. Please refer to website for more information.

Registered Biologist in training

Good Character – RBIT

Demonstrate Good Character through declarations within the application process.

Academics – RBIT

Applicants must meet the Academic requirements under the Registration Criteria of a Professional Biologist, with the exception of having 12 to 14 courses in Biological Sciences, with two being at the Senior Level.

NOTE – Registered Biologist applicants are not eligible to be assessed under equivalency.

Registered Biologist

Good Character – RBIOL

Three letters of reference are required for each application, one being from a regulated professional. The letters must demonstrate that the applicant is of good character and reputation in the practice of biology.

Where an applicant is new to Canada, the applicant must provide a reference who is a recognized professional in their field who can speak to the applicant's character and reputation.

Academics – RBIOL

Applicants must meet the Academic requirements under the Registration Criteria of a Professional Biologist, with the exception of having 12 to 14 courses in Biological Sciences, with two being at the Senior Level.

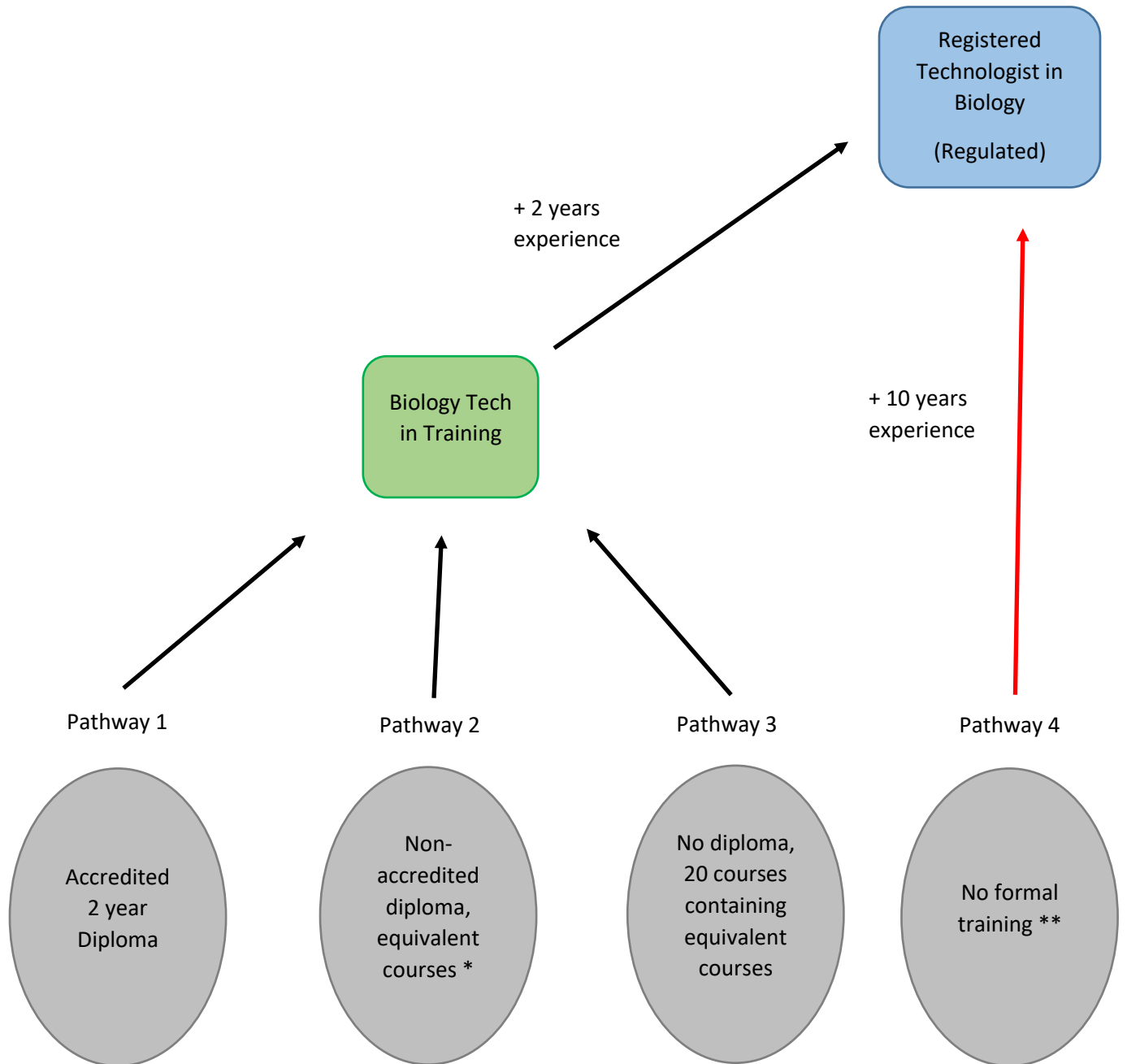
NOTE – Registered Biologist applicants are not eligible to be assessed under equivalency.

Experience – RBIOL

Applicants for Registered Biologist must have three years of experience in biology in the previous ten years.

Registration Criteria – Registered Technologist in Biology

The following chart outlines the four ways an individual may apply as a technologist.



*Accredited Diploma Equivalency: at least eight biology/ecology courses, applied science courses, and at least one communications and one statistics course

** Please see page 16 of Registration Policy Handbook regarding additional criteria requirements.

Good Character

Three letters of reference are required for each application. The letters must demonstrate that the applicant is of good character and reputation.

Where an applicant is new to Canada, the applicant must provide a reference who is a recognized professional in their field who can speak to the applicant's character and reputation.

References for Registered Technologist in Biology who are applying through Pathway 4 must address at least one of the following in their reference letter:

- significant contributions made to the profession
- demonstrate quality of practice
- leading in the applicant's field of practice

Academics

Any applicant with academic credentials from outside of Canada must have an assessment completed from a recognized accreditation service. The assessment must provide details of equivalency of current academic standards.

Registered Technologist in Biology or Biological Technologist in Training:

- Pathway 1: accredited 2 year diploma containing at least eight biology/ecology courses, applied science courses, and at least one communications and statistics course.
- Pathway 2: non accredited diploma, containing courses equivalent in number and core content to those with an accredited diploma
- Pathway 3: accumulated courses with no diploma, must have 20 courses including the core content of those with an accredited diploma
- Pathway 4: significant experience, no formal training.

Experience

- Pathway 1: two years in the past five years
- Pathway 2: same as Pathway 1
- Pathway 3: same as Pathway 1
- Pathway 4: applicants must have 10 years of experience, and they must address the following in their application:
 - significant contributions made to the profession
 - demonstrate quality of practice
 - leading in the applicant's field of practice

Applicants must also provide a data report, acceptable to the Registrar, written after the diploma was granted which demonstrates the applicant's ability to document methods of data collection, and to summarize and present data in a coherent and logical manner.

The "practice of biology" is defined in the *Professional Biologists Regulation* as

- (v) *inventorying, surveying, sampling, interpreting, reporting, evaluating and advising on activities related to biological sciences,*

- (vi) *preparing, administering and implementing plans or programs for managing biological resources,*
- (vii) *conducting research activities related to biological sciences, and*
- (viii) *teaching biological sciences at a university, college or technical institute.*

Experience in biology may also be evidenced by

- iv. Preparing, administering and implementing *policies*, plans or programs for managing biological resources,
- v. Assessing compliance with Acts, regulations, directives, standards and guidelines related to biological sciences and environmental support systems, and
- vi. The conservation, decommissioning, reclamation, remediation and improvement of the environment.

Applicants are welcome to identify other areas of biological experience not included above in their applications.

Residency

The ASPB is open to all qualified biologists who adopt and desire to further the purposes and the code of the ASPB. However, registration may be refused to an applicant who cannot demonstrate a reasonable expectation of practising in Canada.