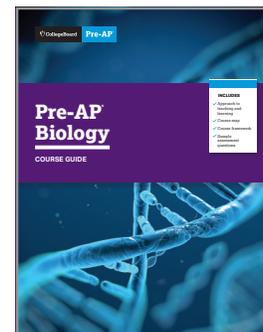




# Pre-AP Biology and New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science: Alignment Summary

Pre-AP courses focus deeply on a limited number of concepts and skills with the broadest relevance for high school coursework and college and career success. The course framework serves as the foundation of the course and defines these prioritized concepts and skills.

When teaching a Pre-AP course, teachers have purposeful time and space to bring their own voice and lessons into each unit to best meet the needs of their students and address the full range of state standards. This alignment summary demonstrates the deep connections between the Pre-AP Biology Course Framework and the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science to support teachers and schools in their planning. Along with the corresponding standards crosswalk, teachers and schools can use this alignment summary when planning and preparing to implement Pre-AP Biology.



## Alignment at a Glance: Very Strong

### New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science:



- **HS-LS1: From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes**
- **HS-LS2: Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics**
- **HS-LS3: Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits**
- **HS-LS4: Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity**

### Discipline Highlights

- ✓ Overall, the alignment between the Pre-AP Biology Course Framework and the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science is very strong.
- ✓ All of the disciplinary core ideas for the Life Science strands of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science are addressed in full by the Pre-AP Biology Course Framework.
- ✓ The Pre-AP framework extends beyond life science and covers some of the disciplinary core ideas for two of the three Earth and Space Science strands of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science.



= **Very strong alignment**



= **Partial alignment**

Alignment between the Pre-AP Biology Course Framework and the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science is described as *very strong* or *partial*. A *very strong* alignment is one in which the majority of standards are fully addressed by the mapped Pre-AP Learning Objectives (LOs). A *partial* alignment is one in which the standards are partially addressed by the corresponding Pre-AP Learning Objectives. Partial alignment can occur when one framework includes greater specificity or extends beyond the scope of the other framework. Given the focused nature of the Pre-AP course framework, some partial alignments are to be expected.

# Alignment at a Glance: Partial

## New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science:



- HS-ESS2: Earth's Systems
- HS-ESS3: Earth and Human Activity

## Discipline Highlights



While the overall alignment between the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science and the Pre-AP Biology Course Framework is very strong, there are some expected gaps in alignment given the intentional focus and approach of the Pre-AP framework.



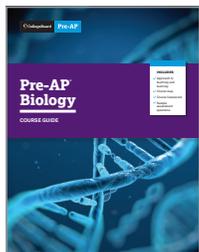
For example, the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science performance expectation HS-ESS2-5 asks students to “plan and conduct an investigation of the properties of water and its effects on Earth materials and surface processes.” While the Pre-AP Biology Course Framework does ask students to explain the properties of water and its effects on earth processes, and construct or use models to support their explanations, it does not ask students to conduct an investigation into these properties and effects.



The New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science include Earth and Space Science and Engineering Design topics that are not directly addressed by the Pre-AP Biology Course Framework. As a result, these areas show little or no alignment. Despite the lack of an explicit match, however, these topics can be addressed using several compelling examples while teaching the Pre-AP EKs.

## Summary

Beyond alignments to the course framework, it is also important for educators to turn to the Pre-AP Shared Principles and Pre-AP Science Areas of Focus to understand the full picture of alignment between Pre-AP Biology and the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science. The shared principles and areas of focus represent the Pre-AP approach to teaching and learning, and these principles deeply address skill development and disciplinary practices that cannot be easily captured within a standards crosswalk. **In summary, there are ample opportunities for teachers to address the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science with confidence throughout this course.**



Learn more about Pre-AP Biology at [preap.org](http://preap.org)