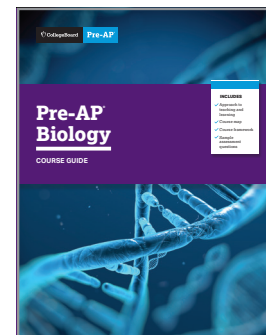




Pre-AP Biology and Virginia Standards of Learning for Biology: Alignment Summary

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 Virginia Standards of Learning for Biology 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

VA SOL for Biology:



- BIO.2
- BIO.3
- BIO.5
- BIO.7
- BIO.8

Discipline Highlights

- ✓ Overall, the alignment between the Pre-AP Biology Course Framework and the Virginia Standards of Learning for Biology is very strong.
- ✓ Virginia Biology standards BIO.2, BIO.3, BIO.5, and BIO.7 are deeply aligned.
- ✓ The majority of permutations for BIO.8 are covered in full.



= **Very strong alignment**



= **Partial alignment**

Alignment between the Pre-AP Biology Course Framework and the Virginia Standards of Learning for Biology 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

VA SOL for Biology:



- BIO.1
- BIO.4
- BIO.6

Discipline Highlights



While the overall alignment between the Virginia Standards of Learning for Biology 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.



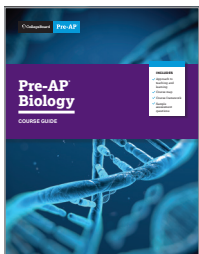
Virginia Biology standard BIO.1 outlines a detailed set of science and engineering practices. Although the Pre-AP Biology Course Framework does not delineate these practices to assigned learning objectives, there are ample opportunities to apply these practices while meeting Pre-AP learning objectives and studying essential knowledge statements for life sciences.



The Virginia Standards of Learning for Biology at times include greater specificity than the Pre-AP Learning Objectives for some topics. For example, BIO.4.b specifies that students investigate and compare bacteria and viruses. While the Pre-AP Biology Course Framework does not specify a comparison between the two, the broader expectation of understanding viruses is addressed in Pre-AP LO CELLS 5.3(a), "Describe the structural differences between viruses and cells."

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 Virginia Standards of Learning for Biology. 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 Virginia Standards of Learning for Biology with confidence throughout this course.**



Learn more about Pre-AP Biology at preap.org