

Update on AP Biology Labs

Beth Nichols

Educational Testing Service
Princeton, New Jersey 08541
(609) 734-5950, bnichols@ets.org

The AP Biology course is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory biology course taken by biology majors during their first year. It is intended that the AP Biology course be taken by high school students after the successful completion of a first course in high school biology and one in chemistry as well. Since one-fourth to one-third of the credit in most college introductory courses is derived from laboratory work, the same emphasis is required in an AP course, therefore laboratory experience must be included in all AP Biology courses. The AP Biology Development Committee has developed a set of 12 laboratories to provide a standard as an aid to teachers for integration of laboratories into the AP Biology curriculum (the titles of these laboratories are given below). These laboratories have been introduced over the years from 1988 through 1994.

The AP Biology Development Committee is now in the process of revising the laboratories based on two surveys recently undertaken: (1) a survey of colleges and universities that provides input on the number and type of laboratory investigations done in introductory college courses, and (2) a survey of AP Biology teachers that provides input on the workability of the 12 current AP Biology labs in the high school setting.

1. Diffusion and Osmosis
2. Enzyme Catalysis
3. Mitosis and Meiosis
4. Plant Pigments and Photosynthesis
5. Cell Respiration
6. Molecular Biology
7. Genetics of *Drosophila*
8. Population Genetics and Evolution
9. Transpiration
10. Physiology of the Circulatory System
11. Behavior: Habitat Selection
12. Dissolved Oxygen and Aquatic Primary Productivity