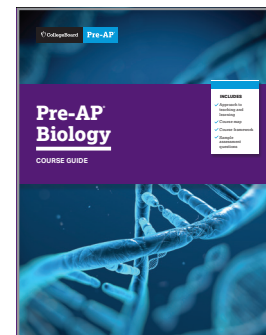




Pre-AP Biology and Massachusetts High School Biology Standards: Alignment Summary

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 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for High School 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

MA High School Biology Standards



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

Discipline Highlights

- ✓ Overall, the alignment between the Pre-AP Biology Course Framework and the Massachusetts Biology standards is very strong.
- ✓ Across the four strands of the MA Curriculum Framework for High School Biology, the majority of the standards are addressed by the Pre-AP Biology Course Framework.
- ✓ The MA standards and Pre-AP share the deepest alignment within the four life science strands.



= **Very strong alignment**



= **Partial alignment**

Alignment between the Pre-AP Biology Course Framework and the Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for High School Biology is described as *very strong* or *partial*. A *very strong* alignment is one in which the majority of the 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 LOs. 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

Discipline Highlights



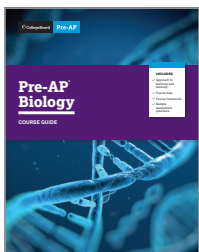
While the overall alignment between the MA Curriculum Framework for High School Biology and the Pre-AP Biology Course Framework is strong, there are some expected areas of partial alignment or gaps in alignment due to the differences in the level of specificity in some areas. In the Massachusetts standards, for example, HS-LS1-3 includes specific examples of feedback mechanisms that are only partially covered in the Pre-AP learning objectives.



Due to the broad language used in the Massachusetts performance expectations, in comparison to the Pre-AP learning objectives, we list several alignment areas as partial since we don't have complete confidence in alignment.

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 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for High School 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 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for High School Biology with confidence throughout this course.**



Learn more about Pre-AP Biology at preap.org.