

Policy Guideline

From: Board of Registration of Sanitarians

Re: Basic Science Courses

Date: December 10, 2014 (rev. Sept. 30, 2015)

The Board of Registration of Sanitarians (“the Board”) voted at its meeting on December 10, 2014 to issue the following policy clarifying the meaning of the term “basic sciences” as it is used in Board Regulations, which are located in Title 255 of the Code of Massachusetts regulations. This Policy Guideline does not have the full force and effect of law, as would a statute or a regulation, however, it is issued to provide guidance to applicants regarding courses that may qualify an individual for licensure as a sanitarian in Massachusetts.

As stated in Board regulation at 255 CMR 4.02, an applicant for registration as a Registered Sanitarian must possess the following minimum education and/or experience in order to be eligible for registration:

- (a) A bachelor's degree or graduate degree in sanitary science, public health or environmental health from an approved school of public health/environmental health, as defined in 255 CMR 2.03; or
- (b) A bachelor's degree or graduate degree in sanitary engineering from an institution on the list of accredited colleges of the United States Office of Education, or any like institution approved by the Board; or
- (c) A bachelor's degree with a minimum of 30 semester hours credit in **basic sciences** from an institution on the list of accredited colleges of the United States Office of Education, or any like institution approved by the Board, plus the equivalent of one year full time experience in environmental health.

See 255 CMR 4.02 (emphasis supplied).

The term “basic sciences” is defined in Board regulations to mean:

sciences basic to sanitation, namely, biological, physical, environmental, sanitary or related sciences, as determined by the Board. Courses in environmental health, environmental protection or public health fields may be approved by the Board.

The Board considers the following category of courses to be “basic science” courses for the purposes of 255 CMR 4.02(c):

Physics	Biology
Microbiology	Epidemiology
Advanced Math * (six credit max)	Public Health
Chemistry	Environmental Health
Bacteriology	Biochemistry
Civil Engineering	Environmental Engineering
Toxicology	Geology
Social Science (6 credit max)	Geography

The above-stated Basic Science courses may be taken outside the applicant’s bachelor degree program but must be offered by an institution on the list of accredited colleges of the United States Office of Education, or any like institution approved by the Board.

Other courses not found on this list will be considered for approval by the Board on an individual case-by-case basis. It is within the Board’s sole discretion to determine whether a particular course constitutes a “basic science” course for the purpose of licensure. The Board reserves its right to require an applicant to submit a syllabus explaining course content to assist the Board in determining whether a specific course qualifies as a “basic science” course under Board regulations. It is the applicant's responsibility to provide sufficient information regarding specific course content.

* For the purposes of this policy, “Advanced Math” means undergraduate or graduate math courses, including computer science and statistics. Advanced Math does not include economics. As noted in the chart above, an applicant is limited to a maximum of six Advanced Math credits towards the applicant’s total “Basic Science” course credits. Determining whether a math course is an Advanced Math course is within the sole discretion of the Board.