
BACE

Biotechnician
Assistant
Credentialing
Exam

BACE Candidate FAQ

1. What does the cost of the exam include?

The exam fee is \$150 per candidate. The fee includes:

- Access to the Online Practice Exam
- One attempt for both portions (Knowledge and Practical) of the exam
- A digital credential upon passing

2. How many times may a candidate take the exam?

Candidates are permitted to take each portion a maximum of three times per year.

3. How frequently may a candidate take the exam?

There is a 20-day waiting period between attempts.

4. How do candidates find out if they passed the exam?

Candidates may see their score results through UF e-Learning. Exam Site Score Reports are sent to the Site Coordinator within two (2) weeks of processing. If taken independent of an Exam Site, the candidate will be notified via email from Biotility within two (2) weeks of processing.

5. What is a candidate's username and password for UF e-Learning?

All users must have an account in order to access the BACE content in UF e-Learning (UFEL). Biotility will email the Exam Site an invitation containing a unique **UF Quick Registration (QuickReg) Enrollment Link** to distribute to their candidates. To create an account candidates are asked to:

- Click the UF Quick Registration (QuickReg) Enrollment Link
- Complete the registration with an external identity (Gmail, Facebook, or LinkedIn)
- Provide requested registration information including name, birthdate, email address, and phone number
- Verify their account by opening and responding to the QuickReg account confirmation email

6. How much time is allotted for each portion of the exam?

Candidates have three (3) hours in which to take the Knowledge Exam, and four (4) hours in which to take the Practical Exam.

7. How do candidates prepare for the BACE?

The Online Practice Exam Course is an excellent representation of the content candidates will encounter during the actual exam. The Practice Exam Course also contains the BACE Candidate Information Bulletin and other study resources and materials. Candidates should read the appropriate BACE Candidate Information Bulletin (CIB) prior to testing.

- [CIB for Live Testing](#) – Knowledge and Practical Exam administered at an Exam Site and monitored by live proctors.
- [CIB for Remote Testing](#) – Knowledge and Practical Exam taken remotely and monitored remotely by Honorlock.

The CIB includes contact numbers, resource links, a detailed exam description, technical requirements, and exam policies. Many of the study materials within the Practice Exam Course are also available publicly at the [Candidate Resources](#) website.

8. What subjects are covered on the Knowledge Exam?

General topics for the knowledge portion include General Topics in Biotechnology, Laboratory Skills and Applications, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Biological Systems, and Research and Scientific Method. See the [Knowledge Exam Categories and Subcategories](#) for a detailed list.

9. What subjects are covered on the Practical Exam?

General topics for the practical portion include Biotechnology Skills, Applied Mathematics, Laboratory Equipment, and Workplace Safety and Behavior. See the [Practical Exam Categories and Subcategories](#) for a detailed list.

10. Why are significant figures NOT required in all of the calculations on the BACE?

In order to maintain accuracy when making calculations for solutions, a question may ask for significant figures, for a number with a specified amount of decimals, or for a whole number. It is important for candidates to remember to use significant figures only when the question specifically asks for them. Otherwise, they must follow the directions in each question. For example, a candidate may see a question similar to the following:

“Calculate the volume in mL of 20X TAE Buffer required to make 1500 mL of 1X TAE Buffer. On your answer grid, record the correct amount.”

$$C_1V_1 = C_2V_2$$

$$(1X \text{ TAE}) (1500 \text{ mL}) = (20X \text{ TAE}) (V_2)$$

$$V_2 = 1500 \text{ mL} / 20X \text{ TAE}$$

$$V_2 = 75 \text{ mL}$$

If you were to follow significant digit rules, the answer would be 80 mL of 20X TAE stock buffer. However, if you plug this answer back into the equation, you get a value of 0.9375X TAE buffer for C_2 , which is *incorrect*.

$$C_1V_1 = C_2V_2$$
$$(20X \text{ TAE}) (80 \text{ mL}) = (C_2) (1500 \text{ mL})$$
$$C_2 = 1500 \text{ mL} / 1600 \text{ mL}$$
$$C_2 = 0.9375X \text{ TAE}$$

Please follow the directions in each question.

11. What is the "Simple Dilution Method"?

Unlike chemistry labs, molecular biology labs use the "Simple Dilution" method. A *simple dilution* is one in which a unit volume of a *solute* (the material to be diluted) is combined with the appropriate unit volume of a *solvent* (the substance in which the solute is dissolved) to achieve the specified concentration. The *dilution factor* is the total number of unit volumes in which your solute will be dissolved. Mix the diluted solute thoroughly to achieve the dilution.

A 1:6 dilution (verbalized as "1 to 6" dilution) requires combining one unit volume of **solute** (the material to be diluted) + six unit volumes of the **solvent**. For example, you may see a question similar to the following:

"Using the simple dilution method, calculate the volume in μL of 6X loading dye required to run a 20 μL DNA sample on an agarose gel. On your answer grid, record the correct amount to one decimal place."

$$\frac{1}{6} = \frac{x}{20 \mu\text{L}} \quad X = 3.3 \mu\text{L}$$

12. How do candidates receive their digital credential?

Upon passing the BACE, electronic credentials are sent directly to the candidate using the email address they registered under. Electronic credentials are issued through Accredible. Candidates are provided multiple options for sharing their digital credential, please refer to the Candidate Information Bulletin or the Sharing Digital Credentials document for the most common method. For details on all options available, please visit [Accredible's Recipient Knowledge Base](#).

13. How do employers verify the credential?

Electronic credentials are issued by Biotility through Accredible. Once a candidate shares or displays their credential it may be digitally verified by anyone.