

More about AoB!

Why should I join?

- You'll get many opportunities to learn about what biotechnology is and its real-world applications
- It's a very flexible program that doesn't require you to do much
- You'll get 4-5 opportunities throughout the school year to go on field trips and explore possible future careers in biotechnology

How do I join?

- You can find the Google Form on the website (<https://www.nwhsaob.com/>) under the "Join" or "Join us" tabs

When can I join?

- You can join up until the end of your sophomore year. You're required to take specific classes for the academy each year after that.
- The earlier, the better! You'll get more time to work on your category credits, more opportunities to go on field trips, and more knowledge about internships and programs.

What are category credits?

- Category credits are how you can record participation in AoB and potentially earn a medal at graduation! They're recorded through a Google form and tracked through a spreadsheet. To get the medal, you need to have 16 credits in total and a minimum of 4 credits in each category.
- Category 1: observing science (field trips, lunch & learns, career fairs)
- Category 2: participating in science (internships, summer programs, setting up labs)
- Category 3: giving back to the academy, which can also count for SSL hours (setting up events, cleaning up events, being an officer)
- Signing up and not participating does not count
- Credits are not a requirement to stay in the program

What if it's hard to tell which category an event counts for?

- You should check with Mr. Silber if you're uncertain
- Some events can even count for multiple categories if approved by Mr. Silber

What requirements are there to stay in the program?

- Junior year, you will be required to take Molecular Biotechnology, which is a double period. It's weighted like an AP class, and you need to get a B both semesters in order to get college credit. At the end of the school year, you get the opportunity to take the Biotechnician's Assistant Credentialing Exam as well as one opportunity to retake it.
- Senior year, you will be required to take Special Topics in Biotechnology, which is a single period. It's weighted like an AP class, but you don't get college credit from it.

What does the Molecular Biotechnology work look like?

- You learn about the groundwork and basic terms/procedures needed to be successful in a lab
- Concepts are explained, but there's more focus on technique, so you get the knowledge you need for the BACE
- The class is only as hard as you make it!

What should I know about the BACE?

- You won't be required to take the BACE just because you're taking the class, but it's a nice touch to your skills and certifications, especially if you want to impress colleges!
- You'll learn most of what you need to throughout the school year, such as western blotting and micropipetting.

How are the classes required for the program related to graduation credits?

- Special Topics and Molecular Biotech count for special recognitions, but do not complete the core science requirements (3 NGSS science credits)

Can I participate while being in other clubs and/or programs?

- Yes! AoB is flexible! Most of our events are during lunch or on weekends
- You'll have many opportunities to get category credits if you choose to
- It'll be your responsibility to make sure you have space in your schedule for the required classes

What are some examples of career paths AOB alumni have gone into?

- Biomedical/ biochemical research
- Public health
- Medical
- Pharmacy
- Genetic counseling
- Engineering
- Data science related to life sciences

Other perks!

- The program is a good place to meet new people and make new friends with the same interests
- You get a cord at graduation if you complete the program
- You can get a medal at graduation if you choose to work towards it
- Mr. Silber can write great letters of recommendation if he sees your contributions to the program or the academic strengths you show in class

How can I find out more?

- Contact Mr. Silber or anyone on the New Member Engagement Team (contact info on the website)
- Talk to Mr. Silber before school, after school, or during lunch in room 307