

Building Biology Advocate

Certification Prospectus



Bringing together design methods and technology to provide the information needed to create healthy homes and workplaces.



Building Biology Institute

The science of healthy buildings

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We are a registered continuing education credit provider for the American Institute Of Architects, Indoor Air Quality Association, and the International Association of Certified Home Inspectors.



Building Biology Institute
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Building Biologists:

A Building Biologist is trained to view the holistic relationship of all life, and become an environmental advocate in the global effort to solve problems that arise from modern methods of creating the built environment including community planning, buildings, and wireless communication technology. Many of these modern “advances” disregard nature and humanity resulting in degradation of our health and the health of the natural environment. By understanding and applying the laws of nature to the built environment Building Biologists are uniquely trained leaders in finding solutions to problems that modern mankind has created through the misuse of chemistry and technology.

Building Biology is a creative education that is pertinent to many disciplines and its graduates includes health practitioners, architects, planners, builders, and expert building accessors. It brings together dynamic, visionary individuals to work for a better, more sustainable and truly Green world. The practice of Building Biology is an extraordinary, valued, necessary, and satisfying career. The goal is:

- to regain order and harmony in our surroundings
- to restore the balance between nature, our buildings, and ourselves
- to help build bridges for the realization of a world that is ecologically oriented
- Building-Biology provides a holistic approach to healthy homes and workplaces while always maintaining people, the building's occupants, as its focus.

As Building Biologists, we strive to change the built world to make it healthier for all. And as we set practical, real-world examples and disseminate solid advice based on Building Biology Principles, we *are* making positive change.

Building Biology Advocate Certification:

The BBA Certification program aims to provide an introductory level course of study suitable for people from varying backgrounds who have an interest in the built environment and its effect on the health of people and the natural environment. The course is not career training in itself, but is a supplement to the many fields it covers, and complements careers in Architecture, Engineering, Interior and Landscape Design, Green Building, City Planning, Natural Health and Social Work. It can also suit people coming from a personal point of view, whether to improve their own health or to build or direct the building of their own home.

The BBA coursework is intended to challenge and change the way the students live and work in the world, fostering a respect for living in harmony with the natural environment. The benefits of such a lifestyle change affect not only the students themselves, but also their families, the people they work with, and of course the natural environment. The learning process is relaxed and flexible, designed to spur a philosophy of health and sustainable living to be nurtured and developed over a lifetime.

In this 2-3 month home study course, you will learn how to create a healthy indoor climate with minimal or no electro- or water-pollution through the use of natural building materials and building systems. This certification track is completely distance learning, designed for environmentally conscious people who want to improve their homes and start educating others. You will learn what kinds of hazards a house or office may contain, including toxic building materials and furnishings, over-electrification, unhealthy heating systems or air-conditioning, etc.—how to detect them, what to do about them, and best of all how not to cause them.

Requirements for completing studies toward BBA Certification:

1. No previous experience required
2. Successfully complete IBE Course 101
3. Successfully complete 80 contact hours of Level 200 online courses
4. Sign and submit the IBE ethics statement
5. Maintain IBE membership (Basic or Advanced) in good standing

You may enroll at any time; you have up to two years to complete the program.

Curriculum Descriptions

IBE 101, Natural Healthy Building:

This mentored Home Study Course introduces the 25 Principles of Building-Biology®. You will learn what kinds of hazards a house or office may contain, how to detect them, what to do about them, and best of all how not to cause them. A senior Building Biology Environmental Consultant (BBEC) will be assigned as your mentor for this course, and be accessible via e-mail and phone.

Topics include:

- Environmental situation
- Building Biology and building culture
- Biologically-sound building materials
- Construction and building methods
- Heating and thermal insulation
- Water and water pollutants
- Air and air pollutants
- Electro-climate issues

Most students complete this course within two to three months of enrollment.

IBE 200-level Online Courses:

The following are self-study courses, required to complete your BBA certification. Each course includes an online exam, which you must complete successfully. As you complete each exam, you will be presented with the opportunity to download a certificate of completion; or you may return to the course area at a later date to download your certificate. Please note that your student online profile will not reflect that you completed each course until you have downloaded the certificate.

IBE 221.10	Cellphones: Unsafe at Any Speed
IBE 221.0	My Baby's Environment
IBE 223.2	Light-frame Construction & Health
IBE 221.13	Light & Lighting: The Human Response to Light
IBE 222.5	Water Quality & Treatment Options
IBE 222.6	Natural Finishes
IBE 221.1	Electromagnetic Radiation Fundamentals

Code of Ethics:

Prior to your final certification, you will be required to sign our Code of Ethics, which defines the responsibilities and obligations of professional self-discipline the International Institute for Building-Biology® & Ecology (IBE) requires of our students and alumni. Its purpose is to demonstrate to the public that IBE students and graduates maintain the highest levels of ethical behavior.

Certificate of Completion:

Upon successful completion of the BBA course, you will be presented with a Certificate of Completion which will allow you to function as an advocate as defined below.

Rights and Responsibilities of the Building Biology Advocate:

As a Building Biology Advocate (BBA), you are IBE-certified to provide invaluable services to the public. Do keep in mind, however, that there are countless potential health hazards in a home or commercial building, many of them hidden, and you are trained and certified only as a generalist—not a specialist. Therefore, you must abide by the following:

You may give talks to community groups and other gatherings about Building Biology Principles, advocate during community planning meetings, and share with the general public ways to detoxify their homes and create more health-supporting sanctuaries. You may charge for this service, if you'd like.

You may use this valuable knowledge to improve your own indoor environment, as well as that of your friends and families.

You may use this knowledge to enhance your existing business, whether you are a real estate agent, general contractor, or other tradesperson.

You may represent yourself as a Building Biology Advocate in the media as you promote the health-supporting steps people can take to make their homes safer.

You are not, however, authorized by IBE to perform paid assessments or mitigations. To do so, you would need to become certified as a Building Biology Environmental Consultant (BBEC), or Electromagnetic Radiation Specialist (EMRS). Each of these advanced certifications includes additional online course work, as well as three 5-day intensive seminars where you will work hands-on with the equipment of the trade, and where you will need to prove your competence to your instructors through onsite labs and in-depth final exams. We require BBAs to adhere firmly to this limitation as without this knowledge (which changes continually as building sciences evolve), a bad situation can be made worse.

If you require further clarification on these issues, or if you have any questions about BBA certification, please write to us at: outreach@buildingbiologyinstitute.org.