

Maryland Integrated Science Assessment Blueprint – Life Science

This High Level Blueprint describes the structure and content of the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) for high school that is administered at the end of the student’s life science (Biology) course.

Standards

The Life Science (LS) MISA uses the 24 identified life science performance expectations (PEs) from the Maryland Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) found in the high school grade band. Not all PEs may appear on a single assessment, but they will be rotated over time so that all life science PEs will be assessed in a regular cycle.

Sessions

The table indicates the structure of the LS MISA by sessions.

HS MISA Session Structure

Session	Time (minutes)	Item Sets
1	40	2
2	40	2
3	40	2
4	40	2

Reporting Category

The tables indicate the breakdown of items on the LS MISA by reporting category.

Science And Engineering Reporting Categories

Reporting Category	Percentage Range
Investigating Science and Engineering Practices	25-35%
Sensemaking Science and Engineering Practices	35-45%
Critiquing Science and Engineering Practices	25-35%

Life Science Topics Reporting Categories

Reporting Category	Percentage Range
Structure and Function	12-17%
Matter and Energy in Organisms Ecosystem	20-25%
Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems	20-25%
Inheritance and Variation of Traits	18-22%
Natural Selection and Evolution	18-22%