



Teacher applications are now being accepted for ToxinLab, a PD and classroom experience that explores the intersection of environmental science, public health, and biomedicine



When Monday July 27 to Friday July 31, 2026
Where Integrative Biosciences Program at Coastal Marine Biolabs
1559 Spinnaker Drive Suite 205C | Ventura, CA 93001
Application link <https://toxinlab.org/register.php>
Host Integrative Biosciences Program at Coastal Marine Biolabs, Ventura, CA
Contact email info@ToxinLab.org

Program Snapshot. Funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences at the National Institutes of Health, ToxinLab is an innovative and locally relevant research experience for high school science teachers and students. The program builds upon our team's involvement in regional biomonitoring programs aimed at managing potentially life-threatening health risks associated with marine biotoxins that accumulate in shellfish consumed by humans and animals. During the first phase of the project, our scientists partnered with local teachers on the design of a classroom-ready, storyline-based instructional unit that connects ideas, concepts, and data from the fields of environmental science, marine aquaculture, public health, and neuroscience. The STEM+M unit engages students in a wide range of investigative practices targeted by the Next Generation Science Standards, which are critical for success in real-world academic and industry research settings. The concluding segment of the unit involves hands-on field and lab work that leverages our ongoing partnership with the California Department of Public Health. Through this partnership, students will make meaningful contributions as citizen scientists to the longest standing marine biotoxin monitoring program in the United States.

Course Suitability. Given its interdisciplinary scope, the unit is suitable for implementation in a variety of high school life science courses, including courses within California Career Technical Education pathways (e.g., Health Science & Medical Technology, and Agriculture & Natural Resources).

Summer PD Institute. We are hosting a free, 5-day professional development institute at our newly renovated biosciences lab in Ventura Harbor. Led by our scientists, these immersive experiences are designed to provide teachers with the scientific knowledge, technical skills, and instructional support necessary to confidently guide their students through the classroom, field, laboratory, and informatics components of the ToxinLab unit.

Application. We will recruit up to 10 high school science teachers to participate in the 2026 Summer PD Institute. Visit [ToxinLab.org](https://toxinlab.org) to learn more about these immersive experiences and how they fit with your professional and educational goals. Teachers may apply for the upcoming institute using the following link:

<https://toxinlab.org/register.php>



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