Virginia Standards of Learning Assessment
Biology Performance Level Descriptors

Fail/Does Not Meet	Pass/Proficient	Pass/Advanced
A student performing at this level should be able to: • Recognize the nature of scientific skills and safe laboratory procedures. Identify variables, sources of error, instruments, hypotheses, theory and law. • Identify the structures and processes needed by living systems. • Select the characteristics of fossils, developmental stages and structures of organisms. • Identify relationships within ecosystems, populations, fossil record. Recognize evidence for biological evolution, nutrient cycling, and natural selection.	A student performing at this level should be able to: • Demonstrate appropriate nature of science skills when investigating, researching, reporting, and applying science content. • Describe and explain chemical, life process, structure/function, and genetic relationships in living systems. • Express and infer relationships based on fossil evidence, developmental stages, structural similarities, and new discoveries. • Within ecosystems, describe the flow of energy and nutrients, individual and population dynamics, and predict the effect of human activities.	A student performing at this level should be able to: • Design and evaluate scientific investigations/research by applying nature of science skills. • Outline and summarize the chemical, life process, structure and function, and genetic relationships in living systems. • Diagram, summarize and make predictions based on fossil evidence, developmental stages, structural similarities, and new discoveries. • Generate conclusions and inferences about ecological processes and the effect of human activities on ecosystems.