



Career Options in **BIOLOGY**

Students electing a major in biology may choose to study organisms on a cellular and molecular level, the genetics and development of organisms, the function processes of living things or the interrelationships of organisms within their environment. The study of biology provides a valuable background for those interested in science but uncertain of their choice of concentration. Not only are graduates aware of the processes and interactions of living things, but they acquire skills in scientific thinking and insight into the complex biological world. Employment opportunities for graduates encompass a wide range of fields. Thirty to forty percent of biology majors continue in graduate or professional education. Others choose high school teaching or work as technicians and researchers in industry, hospitals or academic institutions. Some find positions in pharmaceutical sales, science libraries, fish and wildlife services, environmental protection and conservation agencies, meat and dairy inspection, and forestry services.

SAMPLE OCCUPATIONS: Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of occupations related to this major. Specific requirements based on education level for each occupation may vary. For additional information and assistance, please speak with a Career Center Consultant.

Bachelor's Degree/Entry Level

Clinical Data Processor
Pharmaceutical Sales Rep.
Environmental Educator
Research Technician
Research Assistant
Assistant/Associate Scientist
Bioanalyst

Advanced Degree/Experience Needed

Research Biologist
Microbiologist
Geneticist
Research Scientist
Public Health Administrator
Veterinarian
Physician

*** The bachelor's degree is often adequate preparation for entry jobs in testing, inspection and technical sales, but promotions are limited for those without advanced degrees. ***

SAMPLE WORK SETTINGS:

Medical Corporations	State/Federal Government	Biological book/journal publishers
Colleges/Universities	Biological testing laboratories	Business and Industry
Consulting Engineering Firms	Pharmaceutical companies	Agricultural Chemical Companies

RELATED MAJOR SKILLS & CHARACTERISTICS FOR BIOLOGY MAJORS:

Operate scientific equipment	Numerical computation	Information handling & organization
Curiosity and creativity	Statistical awareness	Biology theory & practical knowledge
Problem solving	Independent worker	Analytical & quantitative abilities
Innovative talents	Technical skills	Oral & written communication

SAMPLE GW RESOURCES:

GW CAREER CENTER RESOURCES: <http://gwired.gwu.edu/career/>

GWork: <http://gwired.gwu.edu/career>

Career Search: <http://www.careersearch.net/gwu>

MyPlan: <http://gwu.myplan.com>

GW DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION: <http://www.gwu.edu/~biology/>

Undergraduate Program Information: <http://www.gwu.edu/~biology/undergrad.html>

Graduate Program Information: <http://www.gwu.edu/~biology/grad.html>

SAMPLE WEBSITES:

Career Planning Resources:

Bio Online Career Center: <http://www.bio.com>
Biological and Medical Scientists Occupational Outlook Handbook: <http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos047.htm>
CareerMD: <http://www.careermd.com>
Careers in Biology: <http://www.sicb.org/cib/>
Careers in Genetic Counseling: <http://www.nsgc.org/careers/index.asp>
Center for Health Careers: <http://chc.hcwp.org/occubull.htm>
Healthcare Career Resource Center: <http://library.thinkquest.org/15569/index.html>
Medical/Health Exploration: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/services/medicaled.html#general>
Science Careers: <http://recruit.sciencemag.org/>
Scientist's Employment Network: www.scijobs.org
SciWeb - biotechnology career center: <http://www.biocareer.com/>

Job Search Resources:

Biology Jobs <http://www.BiologyJobs.com>
Biology Job Search Links <http://www.slic.wsu.edu/bios/jobsearch.html>
BioMedScientist jobs: www.BiomedScientistJobs.com
BioSpace: www.biospace.com
Employment and Career Links for the Biomedical Student: <http://www.his.com/~graeme/empco.html>
Healthcare and Medical Careers: www.hireMedical.com
Medzilla: www.medzilla.com
Nature Jobs: <http://www.nature.com>
Science Careers and job hunting: <http://recruit.sciencemag.org>
Sciencejobs.com: the best jobs from the leaders in bioscience: <http://www.sciencejobs.com>
Science Magazine: <http://www.sciencemag.org>

Professional Organizations & Associations:

American Academy of Forensic Science: www.aafs.org
American Association for the Advancement of Science: www.aaas.org
The American Institute of Biological Sciences: <http://www.aibs.org>
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology: <http://www.asbmb.org>
American Society for Cell Biology: <http://www.ascb.org>
Association for Tropical Biology www.atbio.org
Biotechnology Industry Organization: <http://www.bio.org>
Company of Biologists Limited <http://www.biologists.com/>
E-Solutions for Science: <http://www.scicentral.com>
European Molecular Biology Organization <http://www.embo.org/>
National Science Foundation: <http://www.nsf.gov>
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology: <http://www.sicb.org>
Society for Mathematical Biology <http://www.smb.org/>
Student Conservation Association: <http://www.sca-inc.org>
US Geological Survey - Biological Resources <http://biology.usgs.gov/>

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