Career Options for BIOLOGY Majors



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Biology

Description

Biology is the science of living systems. It examines the nature, structure, function, and behavior of living organisms and their relationship to the environment. Biology is inherently interdisciplinary, requiring knowledge of a variety of physical sciences and mathematics.

Plan of Study/Course Work

The plan of study involves extensive work in laboratory biology, chemistry, and physics, as well as mathematics through advanced calculus. In addition, supplemental work may be included in subjects such as microbiology, cell biology, and plant biology, depending on the area of specialization.

For more information, consult your Undergraduate Course Catalog or contact the Life Sciences Advising Center at 471-4920.

General Interest Areas

Science
Mathematics
Research
Medicine
Health-related careers

Skills and Abilities Associated with the Field of Study

Aptitude of accurate details Ability to organize and conduct research Ability to interpret technical/scientific data Ability to analyze and solve problems Knowledge of laboratory instrumentation

Professional Organizations Involved in this Field

American Institute of Biological Sciences 1444 I St., NW, Ste. 200 Washington, DC 20005 http://www.aibs.org American Society for Cell Biology 8120 Woodmont Ave, Ste 750 Bethesda, Maryland 20814-2755 http://www.ascb.org American Association of Anatomists 9650 Rockville Pike Bethesda, MD 20814-3998 http://www.anatomy.org/anatomy Society for Conservation Biology University of Washington Box# 351800 Seattle, WA 98195-1800 USA http://conbio.net/SCB/

Career Options to Consider

Biology provides a foundation for a variety of careers. While studying biology is appropriate preparation for the study of medicine or other health-related professions, students should consider other careers as well.

Some scientists conduct basic research to increase the knowledge of living organisms, while those in applied research use this knowledge to develop new medicines, increase crop yields and improve the environment. Many biology graduates also work in management or administration, planning programs for food and drug testing or managing a botanical garden. Others work as consultants to business firms, sell chemicals or laboratory instruments, or write for technical publications.

A bachelor's degree is sufficient for advanced technician jobs in the medical field, lab/research assistant positions, or testing and inspection jobs. An advanced degree, however, is required for most other positions in the scientific field.

The following is a list of related occupations that you may wish to further investigate. Keep in mind that this list is by no means exhaustive.

Agronomist **Environmental Impact Analyst** Medical Record Technician Plant Geneticist **Biochemist** Fisheries Biologist Medical Social Worker Professor/Adj. Faculty **Biologist** Flavor Chemist Medical Technician Public Health Assistant Biophysicist Food & Drug Inspector Microbiologist Quarantine Specialist Biostatistician Mycologist Quality Control Specialist Forester Genetic Counselor Natural Resources Manager Research Assistant Biotechnologist **Botanist** Geneticist Naturalist School Teacher Consultant Horticulturist Parasitologist Scientific Librarian Crop Physiologist Hospital Administrator Park Ranger Scientific Reporter Cytotechnologist **Industrial Hygienist** Patent Specialist **Technical Writer** Dentist Laboratory Technician/Scientist Pathologist **Toxicologist** Transfer Agent (Funds) Development Asst. Lawyer Pest Control Inspector **Ecologist** Lobbyist Pharmaceutical Sales Rep. Veterinarian **Education Specialist** Marine Biologist Pharmacologist Wildlife Biologist Embryologist Medical Equipment Sales Rep. Zoo Assistant Physician Medical Illustrator Zoologist Entomologist Physician Assistant

While most biology graduates work in a related occupation and eventually obtain an advanced degree, others choose another direction. Many careers do not require a specific major but rather a wide range of demonstrated skills and accomplishments. Regardless of your career choices, increase your marketability to employers through internships, responsible work experience, good grades, and involvement in college activities.

Types of Employers

A biology degree can prepare students for a wide range of careers in industry, government, the non-profit sector, and education. The following lists are some of the types of employers that students graduating with degrees in biology should consider.

Private & Non-Profit Organizations

Biotechnology Firms Food Manufacturers Research Foundations Chemical Manufacturers Health Care Producers Scientific Journals **Education Institutions** Soap/Cosmetic Co. Hospitals/Clinics **Insurance Industry Testing Laboratories Environmental Advocacy Groups Environmental Consulting Firms** Pharmaceutical Industry Tobacco Industry Travel/Tourism **Environmental Education Centers Public Utilities Fisheries Recycling Centers** Waste Management Co.

Government Agencies (Federal, State, County, Municipal)

Air Pollution Control

Bureau of Land Management

Center for Disease Control

Dept. of Agriculture

Dept. of Environmental Protection

Environmental Protection Agency

Food & Drug Administration

Land Use Planning Commission State

National Institutes of Health

National Park Service

OSHA

Peace Corps/VISTA

Soil Conservation Service Dept. of Health U.S. Forest Service U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Water Resource Council

Web Sites to Explore

General Biology Related Websites

Science's Next Wave http://www.nextwave.org

Science Careers from Science Magazine

http://recruit.sciencemag.org

Science Careers Info

http://mindquest.net/biology/careers/index.html

Biology Careers Page

http://www.furman.edu/~snyder/careers/careers.html

Scientist's Employment Network

http://www.scijobs.org

Science Jobs in Bioscience & Chemistry

http://www.sciencejobs.com

Employment Search Engine for Science

http://www.elabrat.com

The Lab Rat

http://www.thelabrat.com

Bioview

http://www.bioview.com

Careers in Marine Biology

http://www-marine.stanford.edu/HMSweb/careers.html

Oceanography Careers

http://www-ocean.tamu.edu/Careers

Careers in Marine Science

http://oceanlink.island.net

Biostatistician Jobs

http://www.biostatisticianjobs.com

Medical Research Jobs

http://www.medicalresearchjobs.com

Scientist Jobs

http://www.scientistjobs.com

Association Career Related Sites

The National Academies

http://www.nas.edu

American Institute of Biological Sciences Classifieds

http://www.aibs.org/

American Association of Anatomists Classifieds

http://www.anatomy.org/anatomy/nemploy.htm

Association for Women in Science

http://www.awis.org/resource.html

Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

http://ns2.faseb.org/careerweb

Cosmetic, Toiletry, & Fragrance Assoc. Jobs

http://www.ctfa-cosmeticjobs.org

National Society of Genetic Counselors

http://www.nsgc.org/careerinformation.asp

Ecology & Conservation Websites

Guide to Outdoor and Environmental Careers

http://www.princeton.edu/~oa/careeroe.html

EnviroLink - "The largest online environmental information resource on the planet."

http://envirolink.netforchange.com

E-jobs (Environmental Jobs)

http://www.ejobs.org

Environmental Education Resources

http://www.nceet.snre.umich.edu

Student Conservation Association

http://www.sca-inc.org

Environmental Careers World

http://www.environmental-jobs.com

Environmental Careers Organizations

http://www.eco.org

Conservation International (International Jobs and Internship Listings)

http://www.conservation.org/web/how2help/job.htm

The Nature Conservancy

http://www.nature.org

Environetwork

http://www.environetwork.com

Earthworks

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/eworks

Biotech/Pharmaceutical Related Websites

BioJobs: Careers in Biotechnology

http://www.bio-jobs.com

Sciweb Biotech Career Center

http://www.biocareer.com

Careers in Biotech

http://www.accessexcellence.org/AB/CC/index.html

Biotech Employment

http://www.biotechemployment.com

Biotech Info Directory

http://www.cato.com/biotech

BioFind

http://www.biofind.com/jobs

Medical Sales Jobs

http://www.medicalsalesjobs.com

Pharmaceutical Jobs

http://www.pharmaceuticaljobs.com

Pharmaceutical Sales Jobs

http://www.pharmaceutical-sales.com

Jobsite in the Pharmaceutical Industry

http://www.jumpingpills.com

Pharmaceutical Online: Employment Opportunities

http://www.pharmaceuticalonline.com/employment.html

Hirehealth: Pharmaceutical, Biotech, Medical & Healthcare Jobs

http://www.hirehealth.com

Bio Online Career Center

http://www.bio.com

Biospace: Biotech & Pharmaceutical Jobs & News

http://www.biospace.com