



XAVIER UNIVERSITY CAREER SERVICES CENTER

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CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR BIOLOGY & LIFE SCIENCE MAJORS

SKILLS & ABILITIES OF THE BIOLOGY & LIFE SCIENCES MAJOR

Investigation

- Inspecting specimens
- Assessing risks
- Defining expected/potential results
- Identifying problems
- Cataloging information

Research

- Defining problems
- Organizing ideas/information
- Conducting studies
- Designing experiments
- Recording observations
- Using computers for simulation

Analysis

- Evaluating effects of phenomena
- Making projections from data
- Examining components of problems/ideas
- Reasoning logically
- Categorizing data

Quantitative

- Preparing statistical reports
- Utilizing statistical tests to predict outcomes
- Determining probabilities
- Applying scientific concepts to problems
- Interpreting results

**Partially taken from the University of Kansas University Career*

POTENTIAL CAREERS

Business and Industry

- Biochemist*
- Pharmaceutical Sales Representative
- Industrial Hygienist*
- Retail Manager
- Bioengineer*
- Trainer
- Molecular Biologist*
- Food Technician/Technologist
- Technical Writer
- Journalist

Medicine and Health

- Toxicologist
- Veterinarian*
- Biostatistician*
- Bacteriologist*

- Physician*
- Medical Illustrator
- Epidemiologist*
- Genetic Engineer*
- Health Policy Consultant*
- Data Analyst*
- Administrator, HMO*
- Medical Librarian*
- Medical Technologist*
- Dentist, Dental Hygienist*
- Optometrist*
- Pharmacist*
- Physiologist*

Environmental

- Park Naturalist
- Ecologist
- Marine Biologist

- Botanist
- Zoologist
- Fundraiser, environmental organization
- Entomologist
- Conservationist
- Curator, botanical gardens

Government and Public

- Public Health Officer*
- Hunger Policy Analyst
- Water Quality Inspector
- Aquarist
- Park Ranger
- Food and Drug Inspector*
- City Recycling Manager*
- Administrator, Nuclear Waste Program*

**Additional graduate study is generally expected for those occupations marked with a * on the above list.*

TYPES OF EMPLOYERS

- Business and Industry
- State and Federal Government
- Self-Employed
- State and National Parks
- Zoos
- Nature Centers
- Schools
- Colleges and Universities
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Science Museums
- Aquariums
- Health-Care Centers

TOP 10 OCCUPATIONS EMPLOYING PERSONS WITH A BACHELORS IN BIOLOGY AND LIFE SCIENCES

Health technologists and technicians	17.4%
Top and mid-level managers, executives, administrators	10.2%
Biological Scientists	10.2%
Teachers, secondary school	6.4%
Registered nurses, pharmacists, therapists, physician assistants	5.3%
Sales occupations, including retail	4.4%
Other marketing and sales occupations	3.0%
Other management-related occupations	2.8%
Insurance, securities, real estate, business services	2.2%
All other engineers	1.4%

POST GRADUATION ACTIVITIES

- About 1 in 5 biology bachelor's degree holders eventually earn a master's degree: 1/4 study education; approximately 27% earn a master's degree in biology or a related field; 13% earn a master's degree in a health-related field.
- About 7% of biology bachelor's degree holders earn a doctorate degree.
- About 25% of biology bachelor's degree holders earn a professional degree.

**Taken from The College Majors Handbook (Fogg, Harrington, & Harrington) 2004*

RELATED BOOKS IN THE CAREER RESOURCE LIBRARY (CLC 530)

- *Opportunities in Biotechnology Careers*
- *Opportunities in Clinical Laboratory Science Careers*
- *What Can You Do with a Major in Biology?*
- *Opportunities in Dental Care Careers*
- *Opportunities in Osteopathic Medicine Careers*
- *Opportunities in Physician Assistant Careers*
- *Opportunities in Physician Careers*
- *Careers in Science*
- *Careers in Medicine*
- *Careers in Focus: Biology*
- *Planning a Life in Medicine*
- *Resumes for Scientific and Technical Careers*