

What Can I Do With a Major in Biology?



Below is a list of job titles, employers and graduate schools that Harvey Mudd College biology alumni have selected in the past few years.

Job Titles

Clinical Technician	Lab Assistant	Research Assistant	Research Technician
Junior Anesthesia Specialist	Physician's Assistant	Research Associate	Teacher

Employers

A2 Biotherapies Arrowhead Health Beyond Meat	City of Hope Colorado State University, Boulder	Intellectual Ventures Massachusetts Institute of Technology	University of California, Irvine Medical Center	University of California, Los Angeles Larry Hillblom Islet Research Center
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Starting Salary Summary

High Salary Range \$70,000–\$75,000	Low Salary Range \$45,000–\$49,000	Median Salary Range \$60,000–\$64,999
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Graduate Schools

Baylor College of Medicine California Institute of Technology Case Western Reserve University	Colorado State University Columbia University Harvard University Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center Massachusetts Institute of Technology Oregon Health and Science University	Tufts University-Sackler School of Graduate Biomedical Sciences University of California, Davis University of California, San Diego	University of California, Santa Barbara University of California, Los Angeles
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Summer Employers

Brandeis University (Biology REU) Cleveland Clinic* Harvard University (Stem Cell Internship Program)	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (REU) Mochtar Riady Institute for Nanotechnology (Indonesia) New York State Psychiatric Institute*	Northwestern University* Pomona College (REU) St. Jude Children's Hospital (Pediatric Oncology Education Program) UC Berkeley*	UC San Francisco (Biology REU) Ulsan National Institute of Science and Tech (Korea) University of Illinois (Chemistry REU)	<i>*companies that hired first-year students</i>
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Average Summer Wage

First-year \$3,593 stipend	Sophomore \$4,296 stipend	Junior \$4,500 stipend
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Here are just a few areas that may interest a biology major.

Area

BIOTECHNOLOGY

Research and development
Laboratory testing
Education

Employers

Biotechnology firms
Pharmaceutical companies
Federal and state government laboratories and agencies
Agricultural industry
Colleges and universities

Areas of interest to a biology major (CONTINUED)

Area

Employers

GENETICS

Research and development related to animals, plants and humans
Genetic counseling
Education

Biotechnology firms
Pharmaceutical companies
Government laboratories (e.g., U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Wildlife Service and National Institutes of Health)
Hospitals and medical centers
Colleges and universities

MICROBIOLOGY

Research and development
Education
Quality control

Government research laboratories and service agencies
Private research foundations
Hospitals and public health facilities
Food, chemical, pharmaceutical and cosmetics companies
Environmental and pollution control agencies
Museums
National and state parks
Research and development firms
Zoological/botanical gardens
Colleges and universities

What You Can Do Now

- Learn laboratory procedures and become familiar with equipment.
- Obtain part-time, volunteer or internship experience to test the fields of interest and gain valuable experience.
- Develop strong computer, mathematics, as well as verbal and written communications skills.
- Take additional courses in chemistry, physics and mathematics.
- Complete an undergraduate lab research project with a professor.
- Become familiar with the specific entrance exam for graduate or professional schools in your area of interest.
- Learn federal, state and local government job application process. The federal government is the largest employer of biologists.

What You Can Do After Graduation

- An undergraduate degree will qualify you for work as a laboratory assistant, technician, technologist or researcher.
- An undergraduate degree can also be used for nontechnical work in writing, illustration, sales, photography and legislation.
- A master's degree allows for more opportunities in research and administration. Some community colleges will hire master's-level teachers.
- A PhD provides the opportunity to specialize under the different areas of the biological sciences.

