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
- Junior Anesthesia Specialist
- Lab Assistant
- Physician's Assistant
- Research Assistant
- Research Associate
- Research Technician
- 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 Hildlom Islet Research Center

### Starting Salary Summary
- High Salary Range: $70,000–$75,000
- Low Salary Range: $45,000–$49,000
- Median Salary Range: $60,000–$64,999

### 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

### 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)

### Average Summer Wage
- First-year: $3,593 stipend
- Sophomore: $4,296 stipend
- Junior: $4,500 stipend

*companies that hired first-year students

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)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Employers</th>
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<td><strong>GENETICS</strong></td>
<td>Biotechnology firms</td>
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<td>Pharmaceutical companies</td>
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<td>Government laboratories (e.g., U.S. Department of Agriculture,</td>
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<td>U.S. Wildlife Service and National Institutes of Health)</td>
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<td>Hospitals and medical centers</td>
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<td>Colleges and universities</td>
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<td><strong>GENETICS</strong> Research and development related to animals, plants and</td>
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<td>humans</td>
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<td>Genetic counseling</td>
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<td><strong>MICROBIOLOGY</strong> Research and development</td>
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<td><strong>MICROBIOLOGY</strong> Research and development</td>
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<td>Government research laboratories and service agencies</td>
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<td>Private research foundations</td>
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<td>Hospitals and public health facilities</td>
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<td>Food, chemical, pharmaceutical and cosmetics companies</td>
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<td>Environmental and pollution control agencies</td>
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<td>Museums</td>
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<td>Research and development firms</td>
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<td>Zoological/botanical gardens</td>
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<td>Colleges and universities</td>
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**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.