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
- Teacher
- Research Technician
- Junior Anesthesia Specialist
- Physician's Assistant
- Research Associate
- Teacher
- Research Technician

### 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**

### 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

### 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)

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