

What Can I Do With a Major in Biology?

Harvey Mudd College biology alumni went on to the following organizations and universities between 2021 and 2025.



Job Titles

Junior Specialist Laboratory Technician Research Technician

Employers

Beyond Meat MIT Howard Hughes Medical Institute National Institutes of Health UCSF School of Medicine

Graduate Schools

Rochester Institute of Technology University of Washington

Summer Employers

Cha University UC San Diego REU University of Nebraska-Lincoln REU **companies that hired first-year students*
 Cold Spring Harbor Lab UC San Francisco Velox Biosystems*

Here are a few areas that may interest a biology major.

Area

Employers

BIOTECHNOLOGY

Research and development
 Laboratory testing

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

GENETICS

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

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
 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.
- Additional training and certifications may be required for teaching at the K–12 level.

