

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

AGS General Studies Biological Sciences

Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Careers

Biological science majors may become biophysicists, who focus on studying how organisms live, think and develop. Other professional research scientist career options for biological science majors include pharmacologists, who test and develop drugs to prevent and treat disease, and toxicologists, who conduct studies to evaluate the impact that radiation and toxic materials have on health and the environment.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projected jobs in this field to grow at a rate that is comparable to the average for all other occupations. Medical scientists, such as pharmacologists, and biochemists and biophysicists could see job growth of 8% between 2014 and 2024. In 2015, these professionals earned average salaries of \$93,730 and \$93,390, respectively.

Microbiology Careers

Microbiologists focus their work in areas such as food, health, veterinary, medical, environmental and agricultural science. These scientists study microorganisms such as fungi, viruses, bacteria, protozoa and algae. They focus on how these organisms develop, distribute themselves and cause disease. Primarily, microbiologists hope to treat and prevent disease within their given field.

The BLS projected a slow job growth of 4% for microbiologists during the 2014-2024 decade. They earned an average annual salary of \$76,230 in 2015.

Environmental Science Careers

Biological science majors might focus on plant life and become botanists, where they can study topics from the largest trees on Earth to the smallest bacteria in plants. Their studies may also lean towards ecology, which deals with plants' relationships with their environment and world as a whole. Others might work in marine or aquatic fields as scientists who study life within streams, lakes and oceans. They can work for fisheries or even as wildlife biologists, where their careers focus on wild animals in their natural habitats. These scientists might help endangered species.

While zoologists and wildlife biologists were expected to see employment growth of only 4% from 2014-2024, environmental scientists and specialists could see an 11% increase in job opportunities over this 10-year period. Zoologists and wildlife biologists' median annual salary was \$59,680 in 2015. Environmental scientists and specialists earned a median wage of \$67,460 per year.

Human Biology Careers

Human biology is another area of interest for biological science majors. These careers range from becoming a forensic biologist, who focuses on DNA, bodily tissues and fluids, to being an exercise physiologist, who works with people in overcoming injuries or improving physical health and well-being.

Becoming a medical technologist, who works in a medical laboratory, conducting tests that aid doctors and researchers in discovering and preventing disease, is another career option. Another option is a geneticist, which is a biological science career choice for those who wish to study hereditary traits and issues, as well as genes and human DNA.

According to the BLS, below average or average job growth was expected for most careers in this area. Forensic science technicians, for example, could see a 27% increase in employment opportunities from 2014-2024, while medical and clinical laboratory technologists could see job growth of 14%. These lab employees earned an average of \$61,860 per year in 2015. Forensic science technicians earned a slightly lower average annual salary of \$60,090.