

Biochemistry

Biochemistry is the study of carbohydrates, proteins, lipids, nucleic acids and the processes of these molecules in the body. A rapidly developing and relatively new discipline within the sciences, biochemistry intersects with physiology, medicine, cell biology, genetics, etc. In recent years the pace of biochemical discovery has accelerated due to the profound transformation wrought by recombinant DNA technology. Biochemistry majors will be well prepared to enter the work force or pursue graduate degrees, medical school, or other professional training.

What Type of Work are Related to this Degree?

- Basic research
- Applied research
- Laboratory technician/ assistant
- Pharmaceutical sales representative
- Drug manufacturing
- Technical writing for related publications
- Biomedical equipment technician
- Food science or manufacturing
- Testing or product control
- Medical school
- Dental school
- Chiropractic school
- Physical Therapy school
- Veterinary school
- Public Health

More information at ONETonline.org

Who employs people with this degree?

- Healthcare providers
- Biotechnology companies
- College or university laboratories
- Drug companies
- Food processing or packaging companies
- State/federal agencies such as the NIH, FDA, EPA, National Science Foundation, etc.
- Public health departments
- Hospital and commercial medical laboratories
- Forensic testing facilities
- Cosmetics manufacturing
- Zoos

General Strategies for Success:

- Bachelor's degree in biochemistry, biology, or chemistry qualifies one for laboratory technician, research assistant, or other entry level positions
- Take a course in grant writing; researchers often need to apply for grants to fund their research.
- Gain competencies in computers and mathematics.
- Read scientific journals to stay current on relevant issues in the field, and join related professional organizations to network and build contacts.
- As an undergraduate, seek laboratory experiences such as research projects, volunteering with professors, summer jobs, or internships.
- Schedule informational interviews to learn about the profession and specific career paths.
- Participate in research programs sponsored by organizations like the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.
- Become familiar with the specific entrance exam for graduate or professional schools in your area of interest.

Professional Associations

American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
American Chemical Society
Biology Industry Organization
Council for the Advancement of Science Writing
American Institute of Biological Sciences
American Society for Microbiology

This information represents possible occupations and strategies for careers with this major. As with any job or career, there may be additional qualifications or experience needed. For more information and options, make an appointment with Career & Leadership Development or check out our online resources on our website or on myUNW, Career & Leadership Development tab.