

BIOCHEMISTRY

What can I do with this degree?

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

RESEARCH

Basic
Applied
Medical
Administration

University laboratories
Federal government laboratories/agencies:
National Science Foundation
National Institutes of Health
Food and Drug Administration
Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Agriculture
Army/Navy
State and local government laboratories/agencies
Public health departments
Hospital laboratories
Commercial medical laboratories
Independent research foundations
Industry laboratories:
Pharmaceutical companies
Biotechnology firms
Food processors
Cosmetic manufacturers
Chemical and petroleum industries

Bachelor's degree in biochemistry, biology, or chemistry to qualify for laboratory technician/research assistant positions.
Choose courses with laboratory work.
Get on the job experience in a laboratory and/or do a senior research project.
Complete a certificate training program, usually one year, to learn specialized laboratory techniques.
Earn master's degree in biochemistry for better positions, advancement opportunities, more responsibility and higher pay.
Obtain Ph.D. to direct research projects and lead research teams.

TEACHING

Elementary
Secondary

Post-secondary

Public and private elementary, middle, and high schools

Two-year community colleges/technical institutes
Four-year institutions
Medical schools

Complete an accredited teacher preparation program for certification/licensure in biology and/or chemistry.
Earn a higher degree in biochemistry and gain research experience. Ph.D. required for four-year research institutions.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

BUSINESS

Sales/Marketing
Technical Writing
Scientific Journalism
Regulatory Affairs
Administration/Management

Biotechnology industry
Pharmaceutical and chemical companies
Publishers:
textbook, magazine, newspaper, book
Software firms
Regulatory agencies

Take business and/or computer classes.
Become familiar with desktop publishing and other software packages.
Develop written and oral communication skills.
Obtain an MBA or Ph.D. to reach high levels of administration.

PROFESSIONAL

Intellectual Property/Patent Law

Medicine

Law firms
Legal departments of corporations
Hospitals
Private practice

Obtain a J.D.

Earn an M.D.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Seek laboratory experiences as an undergraduate:
research projects, volunteer to help professors, summer jobs, internships, co-op experiences.
- Participate in research programs - some sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.
- Consider a certificate program or specialized master's program to qualify for research technician positions.
- Earn master's degree for greater variety and autonomy on the job.
- Gain a Ph.D. to work on high-level research projects, to direct research programs, to enter high levels of administration, and to teach at a four-year post-secondary institution.
- Postdoctoral fellowships may also be required.
- Learn to work independently and as a part of a team.
- Need the ability to communicate clearly.
- Gain competencies in computers and mathematics.
- Read scientific journals and join related professional organizations.