

NATURE OF WORK

The study of living organisms and their relationship to their environment is the work of biological scientists. They research problems within life processes and use that to develop new products. Most biological scientists become specialists in one biological area such as biochemistry, ecology or physiology. Biological scientists may specialize in work that is related specifically to research and development, or basic research that advances our knowledge of living organisms. Biological scientists also work as research assistants.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Depending on the field of study a biological scientist's work area can range from working regular hours in offices or laboratories to being out in the field, working on a dive underwater to get a close look a marine life. Biologists that work with dangerous organisms or toxic substances in the laboratory must follow strict safety procedures to avoid contamination. A few biological scientists such as botanists, ecologists, and zoologists take trips for field study that involve strenuous physical activity and primitive living conditions, in all types of weather.

TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS

Graduates with a bachelor's degree might start their career as a biological scientist in testing and inspection, or get a job related to biological science, in technical sales or as a service representative. In addition to preparing students to be a scientist, a degree in biology can lead to occupations as a teacher, science technician, in medical or dental careers, as a veterinarian or other health professional. To qualify for independent research, industrial research, or as a college professor, students usually need to obtain a Ph.D., which many students pursue directly after they receive their bachelor's and master's degree.

JOB OUTLOOK

It is projected that some scientific areas of employment will grow faster than average for all occupations but that competition will be very strong. The government provides grants to fund basic research and development, including many areas of medical research and development related to biological science and is one of the largest employers.

CAREER OPTIONS

General biological scientist, botanists, biochemists, microbiologists, aquatic biologists, ecologists, biophysicists, zoologists, researcher, professor

ESTIMATED SALARY RANGE

With upper levels of education

New Mexico—\$38,315-\$71,222

Nationally— \$43,060-\$116,000

(depending on skill, experience and responsibility)

RELATED OCCUPATIONS

Medical scientists, agricultural and food scientists, conservation scientists and foresters, engineering scientists, natural scientists, physicians, surgeons, dentists, landscape designer, and veterinarians.

SJC Basic Program Information

The Associate of Science degree is intended for transfer to a four-year bachelor's degree-granting institution. Students intending to transfer or pursue a particular course of study are strongly encouraged to work with their advisor and carefully coordinate their coursework at San Juan College with the requirements of the transfer institution.

Students must receive a "C" or better in all courses to count toward a degree.

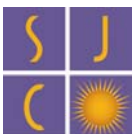
For further information go to:

www.sanjuancollege.edu/pages/158.asp

Click on AAS link under Transfer Programs

www.bls.gov/oco/ocos047.htm

www.aibs.org/careers/



*Most of this information is from the Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010-2011

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