Career Opportunities with a Degree in Biological Sciences

Working in a laboratory for cancer research, monitoring the birth and growth of bear cubs, studying marine life on the Great Barrier Reef, feeding and caring for baby penguins at the Saint Louis Zoo. What do these all have in common? They are careers of MU students who graduated with a degree in the biological sciences.

The majority of MU students with a degree in biological sciences go on to careers in a wide range of healthcare-related fields and settings. Many pursue higher degrees to become physicians, optometrists, dentists, pharmacists, and veterinarians. Others choose to go directly into the workforce and find careers in pharmaceutical and medical device companies and at hospitals.

The degree also prepares students to do research. Many work in industry labs helping to advance research in areas of pharmaceuticals, agriculture, conservation, and criminology. Biotech companies and governmental agencies at the local, state, and federal levels look for experienced biologists with effective research and lab skills.

Other popular career paths include wildlife biologists and biology teachers. Some graduates also go...
Program of Study

The program of study for a biological sciences major is designed to teach you how to be a scientist. The curriculum exposes you to the breadth of contemporary life sciences, including cellular and molecular biology, genetics and genomics, neurobiology, evolution, ecology, and computational and quantitative biology. This foundation prepares you well for advanced courses and is also aligned with the content included on most admissions tests, such as the MCAT and GRE. Laboratory courses introduce you to the latest research techniques, methods, and equipment.

You will be taught by professors who are among the nation’s most prestigious scientists and MU’s best teachers. They will inspire, mentor, and guide you.

Research Experience

Research gives you the opportunity to apply the knowledge you learn in the classroom to real-world questions as well as the opportunity to work side by side with scientists who work in your field of interest. Research also gives you an edge when applying to graduate or professional school.

84% of successful MU medical-school applicants have research experience.

BIOME

The BIOME FIG is a residential, intensive academic program designed to increase academic success for students majoring in the biological sciences. As a BIOME student, you will arrive on campus one week early and spend the week meeting with your first-year science teachers, attending biology and chemistry lectures, taking practice tests, going to office hours, learning study strategies for college, exploring campus resources, learning about research opportunities, and attending a networking dinner with science faculty. For more information, including the application, visit biome.biology.missouri.edu.