

MAJOR TO CAREER GUIDE

B.S. Biochemistry

College of Sciences

Mission of the College of Sciences

The College of Sciences offers programs in life sciences, chemistry, geoscience, mathematical sciences, physics and astronomy, and water management. The college has created a well-rounded curriculum by combining practical and empirical knowledge with scientific fundamentals and principles, which provides a solid foundation for a successful career in the sciences and other professional programs. The student-faculty relationship, hands-on research, and community service help ensure that students who graduate are prepared for whatever path they choose.

www.unlv.edu/sciences

About the Biochemistry Career

Biochemistry, the study of chemical processes that take place in living organisms, is a broad field that offers a wide range of career options. Biochemists can pursue stem cell or genetic research that has the potential to result in dramatic medical or scientific breakthroughs. Some biochemists study the body's immune response to germs and allergens or the effectiveness of drugs in treating a wide array of afflictions. Other biochemists work in the commercial food or agricultural field looking for ways to improve products and crops.

Value of a B.S. Biochemistry Major

Biochemists have high-value jobs that influence work in hospitals, university research departments, agriculture, food institutes, education, scientific law, cosmetic industries, forensic crime research, industrial laboratories, drug manufacturing, biotechnology, publishing, sales and marketing, government administration, science writing and many more... Biochemistry is often a collaborative field, requiring biochemists to work and communicate as a team with professionals from a variety of disciplines to achieve their goals. Funding for research in these areas has been increasing dramatically in most countries, and the biotechnology industry is expanding rapidly.

UNLV Academic Advising for Science Majors:

Academic Advisors who are eager to meet with students about their academic goals and to assist in constructing a plan for graduation. Advisors can also help students understand how their experiences at UNLV can lead to a career in their desired field.

College of Sciences Advising Center
Phone: 702-895-2077
Campus Location: MPE-A 130
www.unlv.edu/sciences/advising

Biochemistry Career Options

- applied researcher
- pharmaceutical researcher
- research chemist
- chemical safety engineer
- Pharmacologist
- Analytical chemist
- Technical sales or service representative
- Testing and inspection professional

Professional and Student Organizations: Biochemistry BS

Students are encouraged to get involved with these societies and groups early on! Visit getinvolved.unlv.edu for more information.

Chemical Interactions (UNLV Chemistry Club)
Neuroscience Journal Club (NJC)

Websites for professional organizations:

American Chemical Society (ACS), www.acs.org
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) www.faseb.org/asbmb/
Biochemical Society www.biochemistry.org
American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACCC),
www.aac.org
International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) www.iupac.edu
National Science Teachers Association (NSTA),
www.nsta.org
Advancing Science, Serving Society (AAAS)
www.aas.org

Graduate Program: M.S. in Biochemistry

Our graduate programs offer exceptional research opportunities for advanced training in a wide variety of chemistry related disciplines including Organic, Physical, Analytical, Computational, Materials, Biochemistry, and Chemical Education.

Affiliated Programs:

M.A. in Science Teaching
M.S. in Water Resources Management
Ph.D. in Radiochemistry

Helpful Career Information

Employers rate candidate soft skills/qualities in order of importance

- 1 Ability to verbally communicate with persons inside and outside the organization
- 2 Ability to work in a team structure
- 3 Ability to make decisions and solve problems
- 4 Ability to plan, organize and prioritize work
- 5 Ability to obtain and process information
- 6 Ability to analyze quantitative data
- 7 Technical knowledge related to the job
- 8 Proficiency with computer software programs
- 9 Ability to create and/or edit written reports
- 10 Ability to sell or influence others

Source: Job Outlook 2013

Courtesy of the National Association of Colleges and Employers

Visit the Career Occupational Handbook to learn more about a specific occupation:

<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

The OCH covers hundreds of occupations and describes: What They Do, Work Environment, How to Become One, Pay, and more. Each profile also includes BLS employment projections for the 2010–20 decade.

Career Exploration/Planning

FOCUS 2: UNLV's computerized assessment that profiles your interests, abilities, and values and helps you find a career that's right for you.

<http://hire.unlv.edu/careerAssessment.html>

Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI): Assessment designed to identify how you are energized, how you take in information, how you make decisions, and how you approach life.

<http://hire.unlv.edu/careerAssessmentMBTI.html>

Strong Interest Inventory: Generates an in-depth assessment of your interests among a broad range of occupations, work and leisure activities, and educational subjects.

<http://hire.unlv.edu/careerAssessmentStrong.html>

UNLV Career Services

Career Services encourages ALL UNLV students to take advantage of their services, which include:

- Assistance with developing a career plan and choosing a major
- Career counseling and guidance on building a RESUME
- Preparing for an interview, assistance with job searching and networking.

Phone: 702-895-3495

Campus Location: SSC-A 2nd Floor

<http://hire.unlv.edu/>

Internship Opportunities

UNLV's **Hire a Rebel** is a free, online recruiting system that helps students, alumni, and employers connect in a variety of ways.

Students can use **Hire a Rebel** to search for: job and internship listings, on-campus recruiting interviews, employer information sessions, resume book database, & dates for career fairs.

<http://hire.unlv.edu/careerLink.html>

MEDIAN SALARIES BY DISCIPLINE 2010-2012

Career	Salary Range	Median Salary
Biochemist	\$32,101 - \$101,393	\$53,226
Research Chemist	\$40,593 - \$98,258	\$61,000

www.payscale.com

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