



BIOTECH BULLETIN



Biotechnology Careers in the United States

[By Nihit Aurora]

Biotechnology combines the study of biological sciences with technological advances to find solutions to important societal and scientific issues. Biotechnology is especially useful in research and development related to medicine and pharmaceuticals, agriculture, food production, forensics, wildlife conservation, and biological studies.

The field of biotechnology is the ultimate frontier of scientific and technological studies. Biotechnology can aptly be described as a subject that requires a multidisciplinary approach to innovation and development. Those in the industry study the basic elements of matter, such as tissues, cells, and even smaller components of life, to provide solutions to industrial and scientific problems.

Currently, biotechnology is a multidisciplinary domain in the United States. Therefore, diverse educational options exist in the field across the country. There is a growing need to produce skilled graduates who can cater to the career-related demands of the industry.

The key aim of biotechnology programs is to ensure core competence in the field of biotechnology. Diverse objectives include preparing researchers, managers, technicians, and other professionals to fuel the surge in the biotechnology industry. Biotechnology graduates may also elect to pursue higher qualifications in such fields as biophysical science, mechanical engineering, and computing.

Educational programs range from certificate and bachelor's degree programs

to master's and doctoral degree programs. To cater to the managerial and leadership needs of the biotechnology industry, some universities offer dual degree programs as well. These programs include managerial preparation along with biotechnology training.

Presently, the biotechnology industry offers a variety of career options for biotechnology scientists, agricultural scientists, general practitioners, forensic scientists, laboratory technologists, and veterinarians.

More and more career options are opening up in the industry. Biotechnology graduates with some experience can expect to find employment as bioinformaticians, consultants, and industry researchers. Biotechnology graduates with management skills can expect to find employment as biotechnology consultants and biotechnology directors.

Although biotechnology has conventionally retained its identity as an academic domain, there is a growing demand for highly educated professionals in biotechnology businesses. Presently, there are around 1,500 biotechnology companies in the United States. Together, their business totals more than \$40 billion.

There is a growing need to meet the growing demand for biotechnology professionals and qualified graduates produced by universities in the United States. However, most biotechnology professionals attuned to academic lifestyles are finding the change drastic due to industry expectations with regard to returns on investment.

Businesses cannot afford to lose good scientists with sound academic and research credentials. What is required is simply adaptation to the business aspects of biotechnology. Therefore, even if biotechnology scientists do not display entrepreneurial desires, a series of short-term training programs can help fill the gap between academics and business.

ON THE NET

Hiring in Biotech

www.vault.com/articles/Hiring-in-Biotech-22019255.html

Biotechnology Careers

www.physicspost.com/articles.php?articleId=224

Guide to College Majors in Biotechnology

www.worldwidelearn.com/online-education-guide/science/biotechnology-major.htm

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