

# What Can I do with a major in ***Microbiology***?

*The extent to which microorganisms play a role in sustaining life on Earth is of fundamental interest to microbiologists. Subsets of microorganisms have been identified as agents of plant, animal, and human diseases and as necessary components in the manufacture of certain foods or therapeutic materials such as penicillin. Microbes are used to clean up oil spills, and, in genetic engineering technology, to produce therapeutic molecules such as human insulin and growth hormone.*

*Microbiology majors have many career opportunities available to them upon graduation, including positions in clinical, government, academic, and industrial settings. A bachelor's degree in the field of microbiology is also an excellent background for continuing studies leading to advanced degrees in:*

- *Medicine*
- *Dentistry*
- *Veterinary Science*
- *Biochemistry and Molecular Biology*

## **A Sample of Related Career Opportunities:**

Infectious Disease Research	Technical Sales	Product Development
Medical Illustration	Genetic Engineering	Bioreclamation
Scientific Research	Patent Law	Bioremediation
Bioethics	Biotechnology	Education
Virology	Microbial Ecology	Infectious Control
Quality Control	Food Technology	Molecular Biology
Vaccine Development	Microbial Genetics	Public Health
Forensic Medicine	Environmental Health	Epidemiology
Clinical Microbiology	Veterinarian Microbiology	Laboratory Administration
Human Genome Project	Pollution Control	Technical Writing
Immunology	Microbial Physiology	Environmental Law
Agricultural Microbiology	Drug Development	

## **Types of Employers:**

### ***Private and Non-profit Organizations***

Medical and hospital clinics	Food Processing Companies
Industrial Firms	Private or hospital diagnostic laboratories
Pharmaceutical Companies	Biotechnology Companies
Colleges and Universities	

### ***Government Agencies***

Occupational Safety and Health Administration	Public Health Service
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	Food and Drug Administration
State and U.S. Environmental Protection Agencies	State Health Departments

## **Links for Microbiology Majors**

American Society for Microbiology (ASM): <http://www.asmusa.org>

Bioweb: <http://bioweb.uwlax.edu/>

Science Jobs: <http://www.science-jobs.org/>

The American Institute for Biological Sciences: [www.aibs.org/careers/index.html](http://www.aibs.org/careers/index.html)

Occupational Outlook Handbook: <http://www.bls.gov/oco>

Bio Online Career Center: <http://www.bio.com/jobs/>

Science Careers: <http://recruit.sciencemag.org/>

MonsterTRAK: <http://www.monstertrak.com>