

Careers in microbiology

Some of the following was adapted from the American Society for Microbiology web site (asm.org) as well as microbes.info.

Job Titles:

With a Bachelor's Degree in Microbiology

- Research assistant (within a company setting, academia or for a governmental agency)
- Quality assurance technologist (food, industrial or environmental microbiology)
- Clinical/Medical (veterinary) technologist
- Teacher (with certificate or simultaneous education degree)

With a Master's level degree, research and technology positions can become supervisory.

There are possibilities for teaching at a college level.

With a doctoral degree, there are opportunities to become a professor, administrator, research director or corporate executive.

Areas of specialty in Microbiology:

- Environmental Microbiology
 - Aeromicrobiology - study of atmospheric particles of biological origin
 - Bioremediation
 - Ecology (long-term ecological research)
 - Plant microbiology
 - Soil microbiology
 - Water microbiology
- Food Microbiology
 - Agricultural Microbiology
- Industrial Microbiology
- Medical Microbiology
 - Bioterrorism
 - Clinical Microbiology
 - Immunization
- Veterinary Microbiology
- Microbiology Education

Pay Scale

Salaries for a microbiologist range depending on education, employer and experience. The median salary, as reported by salary.com as of April 2007 was \$38,742. Base level salaries may be as low as \$32,000. Salaries reported for those with doctoral degrees are generally \$50,000+.

Some Companies/Agencies Currently Hiring

(<http://www.indeed.com/q-Microbiologist-jobs.html>)

- Army Medical Department (AMEDD)
- Colgate-Palmolive
- Defense Threat Reduction Agency
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Alternative Resources Company:

Pharmaceutical company located in New York seeks a Microbiologist. This position is primarily responsible for performing microbiological testing of water, raw materials, finished products, stability, and AR&D samples, in addition to performing environmental monitoring and microbial identifications. With some supervision, perform and document USP/NF, or other compendial testing of pharmaceutical products using microbiological testing procedures. Perform Preparatory and Microbial Limit testing. Identify microorganisms and prepare media and maintain stock cultures.

- Review notebooks and analytical reports.
- Occasional holiday or weekend work.
- Write SOP's and reports.

Experienced in microbial limits testing, preparatory testing, microbiological water analysis, microbial identifications and environmental monitoring; Knowledge of cGMP's and GLP's; Good oral and written communication skills; Demonstrate flexibility in carrying out a variety of assignments in a quality work environment.

Requirements:

A B.S. in Microbiology or related field with 2-3 years of experience in the field of pharmaceutical microbiology, or Master's degree with 1-2 years experience is required.

- Medtronic
- Phoenix Children's Hospital
- County of San Diego (Junior Public Health) Microbiologist - \$39,000-\$47,000 annually)
- Department of Defense (\$43,731 - \$98,041)
- Aerotek Scientific (pharmacy)
- Johnson & Johnson
- Public Health Seattle
- Kelly Scientific Resources (Food Microbiologist)
- Tyson Foods
- Department of Homeland Security
- Procter and Gamble
- ConAgra Foods
- Department of Commerce
- Northwest Medical Center (AZ)
- Grafton Engineering Services
- Philip Morris USA
- Department of Agriculture