

Careers in Microbiology with the Baccalaureate Degree

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A bright student enters your office and begins talking to you about careers in microbiology. In most cases, your responses reflect your own experiences—go to graduate school, do a post-doc, get a job in academia. But not all students are interested in that career path. How can we advise students who wish to seek employment after receiving their B.S. degree? One well-known option is to pursue a career as a Clinical Laboratory Scientist. But a B.S. in microbiology can lead to many other careers. In this issue of *Focus on Microbiology Education*, we explore some of these other options with the hope that this will help our readers better advise their students. In addition, we encourage you and your students to visit two web resources (see Box). Both sites will give you and your students insight into career possibilities and will reinforce the importance of career planning and undergraduate research experience.

<http://www.sciencejobs.com> is owned and produced by a publishing group that includes *Cell*, *New Scientist*, *BioMedNet*, and *ChemWeb.com*. Viewers may choose from 27 specialty areas listed under Bioscience, including microbiology, bioinformatics, virology, epidemiology, and biotechnology. Job searches can include or be limited to industrial, academic, or governmental positions. Geographic choices can be made, but there is no choice for level of training. Most jobs posted in January 2002 were academic positions or postdoctoral appointments. There were a few B.S. level positions for research technologists or research assistants. Each job includes a brief description of the institution, a job description, and job requirements. It is possible to apply online.

<http://www.sciencecareers.org> is published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science and *Science*. The above address displays as <http://recruit.sciencemag.org/>. At the site viewers can do job searches through ads in *Science*, post a résumé, and enroll in an email service to notify participants of job possibilities. There are links to employer profiles, career fairs, salary surveys, and academic programs. Life Science includes 29 specialty areas. Viewers can choose from a number of worldwide or national geographic databases and can indicate level of training as a search tool. There are multiple choices for type of organization. In January 2002, there was only one listing for a B.S. level job in the U.S.