

What Can I do With a Biomedical Science Major?

This is a question that counselors in the Marquette Career Services Center often hear. The biomedical science major in the College of Health Science is unique to Marquette University, with few other schools offering this program. As students know, they have completed challenging course work in **biochemistry, histology, human microbiology, nutrition, human anatomy, pathology, pharmacology and human physiology**. These courses can serve as a basis for future degrees or serve as an interest index as to where a student with a bachelor's degree wishes to begin their career. Following are many options and ideas on how to decide on a career path. Students are always welcome to make an appointment with a career counselor at 288-7423.

A. Professional School

The biomedical science major serves as an excellent background for many of the health related professional degrees:

Chiropractic

Law

Nurse Practitioner

Optometry

Pharmacy

Dentistry

Medicine

Occupational Therapy

Osteopathic

Veterinary

Podiatry

Physician Assistant

Physical Therapy

B. Graduate School

Many students use the biomed major to advance to graduate program in areas such as:

Biology

Chemistry

Counseling

Exercise Physiology

Genetic Counseling

Biomedical Engineering

Community Medicine

Environmental Management

Forensic Science

Health Behavior

Zoology

Teaching

Public Health

Nutrition

Health Care Administration

C. Research areas

Students may develop interest in a following area that they can pursue:

General Biomedical Science

Cellular and Molecular Biology Neuroscience, Vascular Biology

Comparative Biomedical Sciences

Medical Biology

General Biomedical Science

Biophysics Pathology

Biological Anthropology

Bioethics

Environmental Health Sciences Endocrinology-Reproductive

Physiology

Biomolecular Chemistry

What Can Undecided Biomedical Majors Do to Focus Their Career Paths?

If students have not planned advanced study or have had such plans thwarted for any reason, then the bachelor's, biomedical science graduates are often confused and unsure of what career path they want to take or, as they often ask, "what is available."

A. Interests

Undecided biomedical majors should first examine their particular interests:

Do your interests lie within the **biomedical or health fields**?

- What courses became your favorites?

- What courses were you very excited about to the point of wanting to continue in that field?
- What courses went particularly well with excellent grades?
- Would you like to do research?
- Would you enjoy working in a lab?

Are you more interested in **doing “related” biomed activities** as working in pharmaceutical sales, health care administration or public health?

Are you **not particularly interested in using your major at all** but rather finding a job and building a career in a newly developed area of interest, i.e. you always had an interest in investments, think you’re good at it and would like to start working in the finance field and work your way up. Perhaps an MBA down the road; or you’re very interested in the environment and would like to get an entry-level position working in administration for a national park.

B. Skills

The second thing the undecided biomedical major have to understand are the skills and strengths that they have to offer to an employer. Every college graduate supposedly has 2000 skills! Therefore, you should be able to pick out 10 skills or strengths that you realize that you **really** possess.

To assess your skills, write down tasks that you’ve have to do for classroom projects, labs, or part-time employment. Then underneath each task, list the skills that you use to complete that task, i.e. **Task:** Set up a database for lab projects; **Skills:** Know **Access** Program well enough to set up database; **Communicated** with classroom instructor as to what information is needed in the database; Completed database design in a two week period (**time management skills**); Demonstrated necessary **organization**.

Skills are divided into three areas:

1. **“Job-Content” Skills**
Abilities learned from majoring in a particular area (biomedical sciences teaches scientific research skills), AND/OR skills gained through an internship, volunteer or part-time experience.
2. **Transferable Skills**
Skills coming out of an arts and science based education: ability to write and speak well, research, analyze, critique, problem solve. (biomedical sciences teach you to be able to work as part of a team)
3. **Personal Characteristics**
Individual traits such as: reliability, energy, leadership, work ethic. (biomedical sciences requires traits like: patience, accuracy, determination, dedication, motivation, curiosity, attention to detail)

C. Values

After you have determined your **interests and skills**, also consider your **values**.

Values have to do with:

- how much money you want to earn?
- how much time you want to put into a job?
- what geographic location you want to live in?
- what quality of life you have set for yourself?

Websites

Below is a short list of some of related websites to get you started.

The Riley Guide	www.rileyguide.com
Medical Device Links	http://www.devicelink.com/
Medzilla	http://www.medzilla.com/
Newsgroup Archive	http://www.bio.net/hypermail/biojobs/
Chemistry and Industry	http://www.chemind.org/CI/index.jsp
Society of Chemical Industry	http://www.soci.org/SCI/index.jsp
Chemindustry.com	http://www.chemindustry.com/
Chemistryjobs.com	http://www.chemistryjobs.com/
Website of the American Chemical Society	http://www.acs.org
Links for Chemists	http://www.liv.ac.uk/Chemistry/Links/links.html
Organic Chemistry Resources Worldwide	http://www.organicworldwide.net/
Public Health	http://www.sph.emory.edu/studentsservice/Career.html
Public Health Resources on the Internet	http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/PUBL/internet.html
Jobs in the Health Care Field	http://www.healthcaresource.com/
Health Care Job Store	http://www.healthcarejobstore.com/
Jobscience.com	http://www.jobscience.com/
PharmaceuticalJobs-usa.com	http://www.pharmaceuticaljobs-usa.com/
“Global hubsite for life sciences.”	http://www.biospace.com/
Nature—Career Resource for Scientists	http://www.nature.com/

Health Professional Organizations

American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants	http://www.anesthetist.org/
American Academy of Physician Assistants	http://www.aapa.org/
American Art Therapy Association, Inc.	http://www.arttherapy.org/
American Association of Blood Banks	http://www.aabb.org/
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy	http://www.aacp.org/
American Association of Medical Assistants	http://www.aama-ntl.org/
American Chiropractic Association	http://www.amerchiro.org/
American College of Nurse-Midwives	http://www.acnm.org/
American Dance Therapy Association, Inc.	http://www.adta.org/
American Dietetic Assoc.	http://www.eatright.org/
American Health Information Management Assoc.	http://www.ahima.org/
American Institute of Biological Sciences	http://www.aibs.org/
American Occupational Therapy Association	http://www.aota.org/
American Optometric Association	http://www.aoa.org/
American Pharmaceutical Association	http://www.aphanet.org/
American Physical Therapy Association	http://www.apta.org/
American Podiatric Medical Association	http://www.apma.org/
American Society of Clinical Laboratory Sciences	http://www.ascls.org/
Alliance of Cardiovascular Professionals	http://www.acp-online.org/
American Society of Echocardiography	http://www.asecho.org/
American Speech-Language Hearing Association	http://www.asha.org/
American Veterinary Medical Association	http://www.avma.org/
Association of American Veterinary Colleges	http://www.aavmc.org/
Physician Assistant Education Association	http://www.paeaonline.org/
Association of Surgical Technologists	http://www.ast.org/

Institute of Food Technologist	http://www.ift.org/
American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists	http://www.oandp.org/
American College of Health Care Administrators	http://www.achca.org/
American Medical Technologists	http://www.amt1.com/
American Society of Electroneuro Diag. Technologists	http://www.aset.org/
National Association for Home Care & Hospice	http://www.nahc.org/
Society of Nuclear Medicine-Technologists	http://www.snm.org/
Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	http://www.sdms.org/
American Society of Radiologic Technologists	http://www.asrt.org/
American Association for Respiratory Care	http://www.aarc.org/
Opticians' Association of America	http://www.oaa.org/
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists	http://www.aana.com/
National Society of Histotechnology	http://www.nsh.org/
Joint Commission on Allied-Health Personnel in Ophthalmology	http://www.jcahpo.org/
National Academy of Opticianry	http://www.nao.org/
American Society of Extra-Corporal Technology	http://www.amsect.org/
American Horticultural Therapy Association	http://www.ahta.org/
National Therapeutic Recreation Society	http://www.nrpa.org/
Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation	http://www.aami.org/
National Athletic Trainers' Association	http://www.nata.org/
Child Life Council, Inc.	http://www.childlife.org/
Medical Library Association	http://www.mlanet.org/
National Assoc. of Emergency Medical Technicians	http://www.naemt.org/
National Association for Music Therapy	http://www.musictherapy.org/
Society of Vascular Ultrasound	http://www.svunet.org/

List from Health-Care Careers for the 21st Century Jist Publishing

Health Care Career Books

[Job Surfing: The Sciences-Research and Medicine](#), LaBounty, David and Jim Blau
 Peterson's. [Job Opportunities: Health and Science](#).
[Career Opportunities in Health Care](#), Field, Shelly.
 Peterson's. [Job Opportunities for Health and Science Majors](#).
[Planning Your Career in Alternative Medicine](#), Lyons, Dianne.
[Careers in Health Care](#), Swanson, Barbara
[Real People Working in Health Care](#), Camenson, Blythe
[Ferguson Publish Company, Exploring Heath Care Careers](#).
[Great Jobs for Biology Majors](#), Camenson, Blythe
[Great Jobs for Chemistry Majors](#), Rowh, Mark
[Health-Care Careers for the 21st Century](#), Wischnitzer, Dr. Saul and Edith Wischnitzer

Also check out the following website: **What Can I Do with a Biological Sciences Major**
 In addition to listing various fields, it gives some good strategies for pursuing different areas.

<http://career.utk.edu/students/majors/html/biological.htm>