Biology Career Outlook 2009-2010

Biology Programs Available at Bemidji State University:

**Major:** Biology (B.S., B.A.), Science, (B.S.), (Life Science) Teacher Licensure, Aquatic Biology (B.S)—see separate Career Outlook

**Fields of Emphasis:** Ecology, Ethology and Evolution (B.A., B.S.), Cellular Molecular Biology (B.S.), Wildlife Management (B.A., B.S.)

**Related Program:** Clinical Laboratory Science (B.S.)—see separate Career Outlook

**Minors:** Biology, Wetlands Ecology

**Department Website:** [http://www.bemidjistate.edu/academics/departments/biology](http://www.bemidjistate.edu/academics/departments/biology)

**Major Highlights:**
Biology is the science of life. Biologists study all living things and their interactions with their environments. The study of human biology helps us to understand ourselves, and the study of other life forms helps us to understand them and the world we share. Because the field of biology extends to so many areas, from viruses to blue whales, it offers diverse opportunities for personal and professional study and growth.

**Employment Areas:**
The "Occupational Outlook Handbook" reports that biological scientists held about 91,300 jobs in 2008. In addition, many biological scientists held biology faculty positions in colleges and universities but are not included in these numbers. About 40 percent of all biological scientists were employed by Federal, State, and local governments. Federal biological scientists worked mainly for the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Interior, and Defense and for the National Institutes of Health. Most of the rest worked in scientific research and testing laboratories, the pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing industry, or educational institutions.

**Projected Demand for Biology Majors in Minnesota:**
The DISCOVER guidance system reports that biologists will have a moderate growth rate. The scant number of openings keeps competition very high. The average starting salary, according to NACE, offered to four year graduates is about $33,000 per year for biologists, with 230 currently employed in Minnesota.

**Projected Demand for Biology Majors Nationwide:**
The DISCOVER guidance system reports the nationwide demand for biologists is growing moderately, with a 1.1% expected growth rate per year and most growth will be in the private sector. The average starting salary for biologists with a bachelor's degree was $43,500 annually in 2009. According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, beginning salary offers in July 2009 averaged $33,254 a year for bachelor's degree recipients in biological and life sciences.

**Placement Information for Biology Graduates:**
Of the Bemidji State University 2008-2009 biology graduates holding a BA, 66.7% reported obtaining related employment within one year of graduation. Of the 2008-2009 biology graduates holding a BS, 60% reported obtaining related employment within one year of graduation. This does not include students who were not seeking employment, unavailable, or had unknown status. Almost half of the biology graduates went on to continue their education.

**A Partial List of Employers Who Have Hired BSU Biology Graduates:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3M</td>
<td>Occupational Health Specialist</td>
<td>St. Paul, MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADM</td>
<td>Quality Control Inspector</td>
<td>Minneapolis, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aerotek Scientific</td>
<td>Analytical Chemist</td>
<td>Woodbury, MN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Partial List of Employers Who Have Hired BSU Biology Graduates (continued):

Aitkin School District Paraprofessional
Aitkin, MN

Aldine ISD Skills Specialist-Title I
Grand Forks, ND

Altru Health Systems Pathology Lab Clerk
Bemidji, MN

Animal Care Clinic Veterinary Assistant
Bagley, MN

Area School Districts Substitute Teacher
Bemidji, MN

Bemidji Veterinary Hospital Kennel Staff
Bagley, MN

Benjamin Josniecke Photography Freelance Nature Photographer
Jamestown, ND

Boston Scientific Scimed Lab Technician
Maple Grove, MN

Brahma School District Substitute Teacher
Braham, MN

Bureau of Land Management Botanist
Grangeville, ID

Clay County Environmental Assessment
Moorhead, MN

Comanche Ranch Wildlife Intern
Carrizo, TX

Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Intern
White Earth, MN

Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Technologist
Minneapolis, MN

DiaSorin, Inc. Lab Technician
Stillwater, MN

Dodge Nature Center Resource Management
Bemidji, MN

Ecolab Account Manager
St. Paul, MN

EMD Biosciences Production Scientist
Madison, WI

Farm Service Agency Temporary Program Technician
Park Rapids, MN

Federated Insurance Claims Representative
Owatonna, MN

First Care Hospital Naturalist
Fosston, MN

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Biologist
West Palm Beach, FL

Gluek Brewing Company Quality Control
Sioux Falls, SD

Great Plains Zoo Zookeeper
Bemidji, MN

Headwaters Science Center Lab Technician
Tampa, FL

Hillsborough Community College Assistant Director of Education
West Palm Springs, FL

INCS, Inc. Staff Scientist
St. Paul, MN

Innovative Surface Technologies Unspecified
Park Rapids, MN

Lamb Weston Lobster Settlement Intern
Walpole, ME

Marine Darling Center Clinical Lab Science
Rochester, MN

Mayo Clinic Lab Researcher
Rochester, MN

Mayo Clinic Lab Technician
Rochester, MN

Mayo Clinic Physician
Bemidji, MN

Med-Save Family Pharmacy Lab Technician
Des Moines, IA

Mercy Medical Center Nurse
Bemidji, MN

MeritCare Clinic Bemidji X-Ray Department Receptionist
Guthrie, MN

Minnesota Conservation Corp Crew Member
St. Paul, MN

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Pollution Control Specialist
Lake Itasca, MN

MN Department of Natural Resources Natural Resource Technician
Bemidji, MN

MN Department of Natural Resources Resource Management
Brainerd, MN

MN Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Lake Specialist
Bemidji, MN

MN DNR Ecological Services Natural Resource Specialist
Jefferson City, MO

MO Department of Natural Resources Wastewater Permit Writer
New Ulm, MN

MVTL Laboratories GIS Specialist/Biologist
International Falls, MN

National Park Service Conservation Officer
Lincoln, NE

Nicollet Public School Science Teacher
Nicollet, MN

North Country Regional Hospital Phlebotomist
Bemidji, MN

North Dakota State University Research Specialist
Fargo, ND

Northland Community & Technical College Biology Instructor
Thief River Falls, MN

Outreach Patient Advocate
Duluth, MN

Owatonna Clinic Patient Accounts
Owatonna, MN

Precision Treeworks, Inc. President
Bemidji, MN

Rainy River Veterinary Hospital Veterinary Aide
Baudette, MN

Red Lake Watershed District Survey Construction
Thief River Falls, MN

Red River Zoo Animal Keeper
Fargo, ND

Regions Hospital Lab Services Technician
St. Paul, MN

REM Northstar Coordinator
Ada, MN

Riverbend Nature Center Naturalist Intern
Faribault, MN
**A Partial List of Employers Who Have Hired BSU Biology Graduates (continued):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>City, State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Riverwood Healthcare Center</td>
<td>Medical Lab Technician</td>
<td>Aitkin, MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sclitz Audubon Nature Center</td>
<td>Office Staff</td>
<td>Milwaukee, WI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sherburne County</td>
<td>Forest Technician Assistant</td>
<td>Elk River, MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Luke's Hospital</td>
<td>Medical Technologist</td>
<td>Duluth, MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>State of Minnesota</td>
<td>Human Service Technician</td>
<td>Faribault, MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge</td>
<td>Intern Biologist</td>
<td>Eureka Spring, AR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Underwater Adventures</td>
<td>Animal Educator</td>
<td>Bloomington, MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>USDA- Natural Resources Conservations Service</td>
<td>Environmentalist</td>
<td>Winona, MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service</td>
<td>Biological Science Technician</td>
<td>Devils Lake, ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Geological Service</td>
<td>Biological Science Technician</td>
<td>Fergus Falls, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Navy-Radiobiology Research Institute</td>
<td>Radiation Health Officer</td>
<td>Bethesda, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USDA Forest Service</td>
<td>Recreation Technician</td>
<td>Walker, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Medical Center</td>
<td>Medical Technologist</td>
<td>Minneapolis, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viro Med/Lab Corp</td>
<td>Client Service Representative</td>
<td>Minnetonka, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Earth Reservation-Natural Resource</td>
<td>Ag Inventory Specialist</td>
<td>Mahnomen, MN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Colleges and Universities Where BSU Biology Graduates Have Gone to Continue Their Education:**

- Argosy University, Tampa, FL
- Augsburg College of Medicine, Minneapolis, MN
- Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN
- Dartmouth University, Hanover, NH
- East Carolina University School of Medicine, Greenville, NC
- George Washington University, Washington, DC
- Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN
- Indiana University-Bloomington, Bloomington, MN
- Iowa State University, Ames, IA
- Meharry Medical College, Nashville, TN
- Midwestern University, Downers Grove, IL
- Minnesota State Community and Technical College, Detroit Lakes, MN
- North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND
- Northwestern College of Chiropractic, Bloomington, MN
- Northwestern Health Sciences University, Bloomington, MN
- Pacific University, Forest Grove, OR
- South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD
- Southern College of Optometry, Memphis, TN
- Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL
- State University of New York, Buffalo, NY
- University of Houston, Houston, TX
- University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
- University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy, Minneapolis, MN
- University of Minnesota, Duluth, MN
- University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis, MN
- University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND
- University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN
- University of Wisconsin- La Crosse, La Crosse, WI
- University of Wisconsin- Oshkosh, Oshkosh, WI

**Note 1:** Some of the above job/career titles require advanced degrees or specialized training.

**Note 2:** Degrees alone do not get students jobs. Internships, summer jobs, volunteer work, part-time jobs, work-study positions, and active participation in student organizations on campus are all ways to become more competitive in a tight job market.

**Note 3:** Personal Competencies: it is also recommended that individuals be competent in a variety of communication methods, and computer skills are a must.

**Bibliography:**
- Bemidji State University Undergraduate Catalog 2006-2008. Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN (2009)
- DISCOVER. The American Testing Program, Educational Technology Center, Hunt Valley, MD (2009)

For more information, please contact the Career Services Office in 102 Sanford Hall or call us at 218-755-2038 or toll free at 800-657-3726.

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