

Biology and Life Science

This group includes the following majors:

- Biochemical Sciences
- Biology
- Botany
- Cognitive Science and Biopsychology
- Ecology
- Environmental Science
- Genetics
- Microbiology
- Miscellaneous Biology
- Molecular Biology
- Neuroscience
- Pharmacology
- Physiology
- Zoology

Biology and Life Science majors account for 3.5 percent of all majors. Median earnings for those with a Bachelor's degree who majored in Biology and Life Science are \$50,000.¹ There is a small gender imbalance in these majors (women are 55 percent; men are 45 percent). Women with these majors make a median wage of \$45,000, about \$12,000 less than men. The racial makeup of these majors, on average, is 75 percent White, 11 percent Asian, 7 percent African-American, 6 percent Hispanic, and 1 percent Other Races.² Earnings for African-Americans (\$45,000) and Hispanics (\$40,000) are less than the \$51,000 median wage earned by Whites, while Asians earn slightly more (\$53,000).

There is great variation in earnings among the majors that make up this group. The major with the lowest median earnings is Botany, while the highest is Microbiology. Earnings in Biology and Life Science as a whole vary widely, with the 25th percentile earning \$35,000 and the 75th percentile earning \$75,000—a difference of \$40,000.

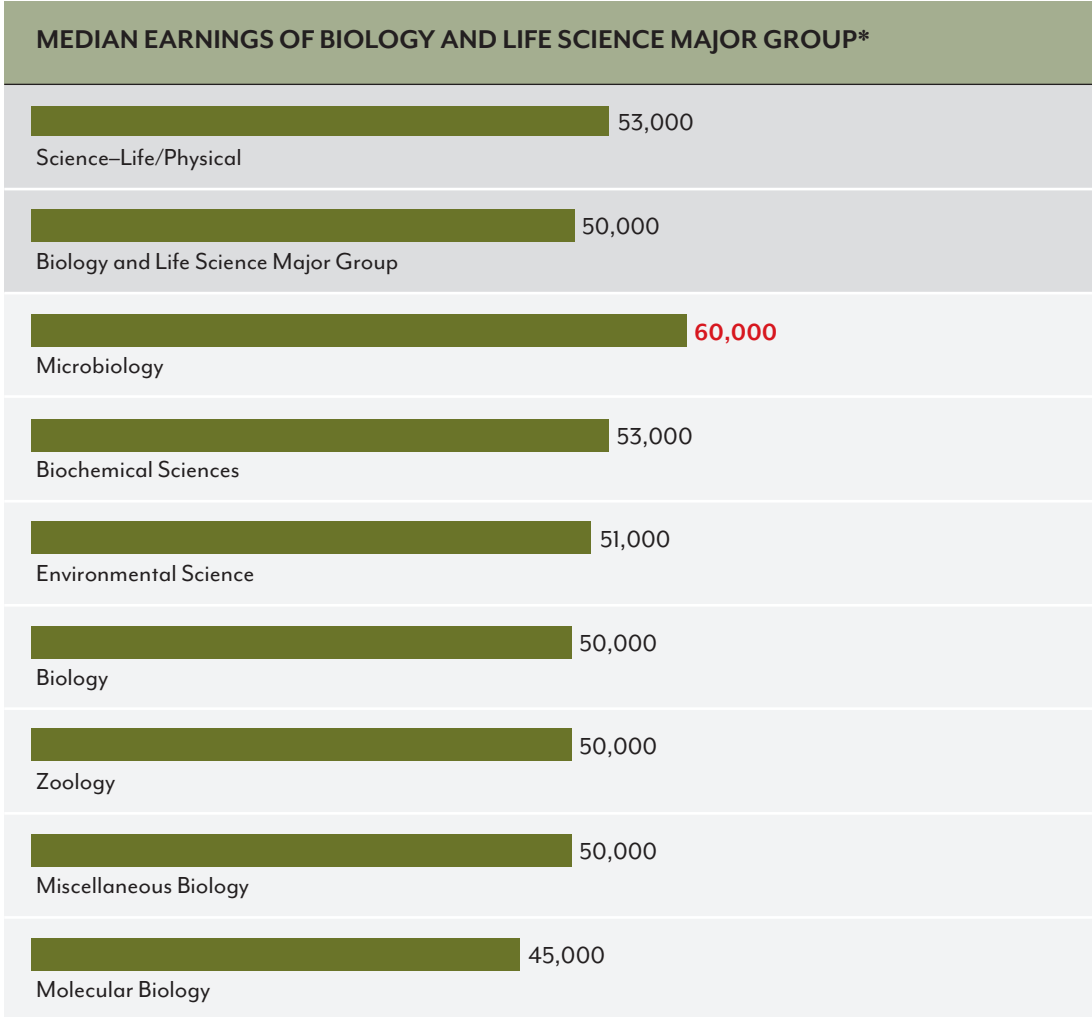
About 54 percent of people with these majors obtain a graduate degree and, as a result, get an average earnings boost of 101 percent.

Of people who majored in Biology and Life Science, 16 percent work in Management, 15 percent in Health, 12 percent in Life Science, and 11 percent in Sales occupations. By industry, 19 percent work in Health Services, 14 percent in Professional Services, 11 percent in Education, and 9 percent in Public Administration.

Of all Biology and Life Science majors who are in the labor force and employed, 81 percent work full-time. About 5 percent are unemployed.

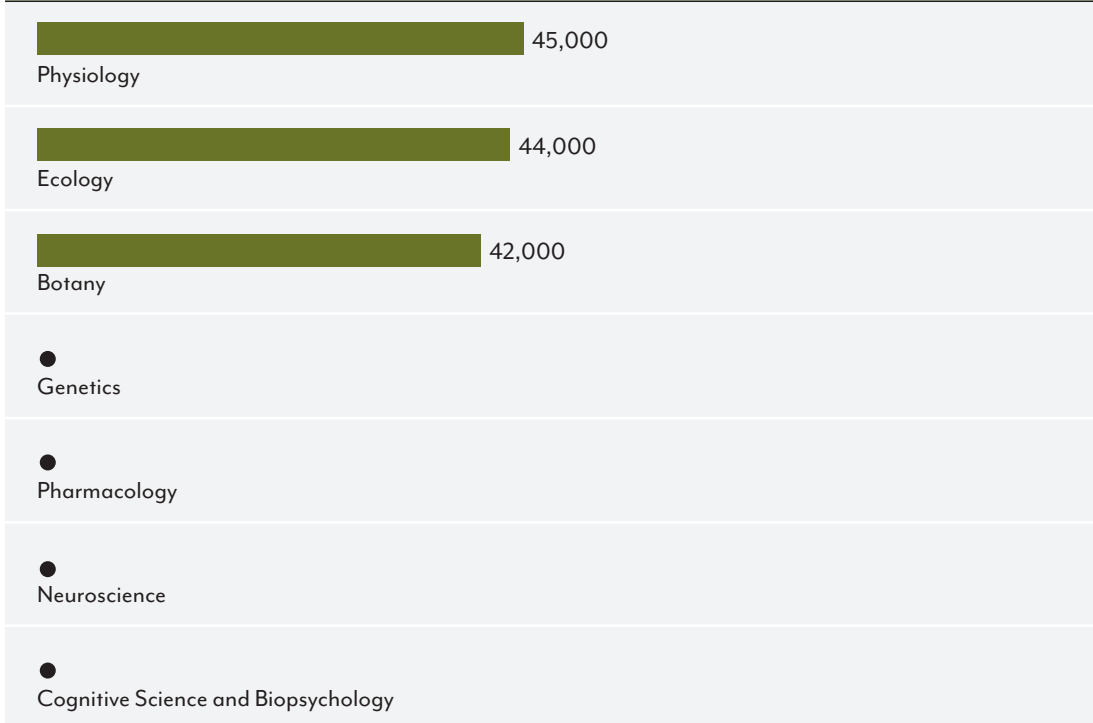
¹ All of the earnings data presented here is on full-time, full-year workers with a Bachelor's degree only.

² Due to rounding, these may not add to 100 percent.



* Full-time, full-year workers with a terminal Bachelor's.

MEDIAN EARNINGS OF BIOLOGY AND LIFE SCIENCE MAJOR GROUP* (Continued)



* Full-time, full-year workers with a terminal Bachelor's.

• Sample size was too small to be statistically valid.

ALL

Science-
Life/Physical

Biology and
Life Science
Major Group

Biochemical
Sciences

Biology

Botany

Cognitive Science
and Biopsychology

Ecology

POPULARITY OF MAJORS[†]

Total Bachelor's		1,197,003	63,315	745,760	13,593	8,181	39,041
% of All Majors		100	5	62	1	1	3

MEDIAN EARNINGS BY MAJOR*

Median earnings	53,000	50,000	53,000	50,000	42,000	•	44,000
-----------------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	---	--------

EARNINGS AT THE 25TH AND 75TH PERCENTILE*

Earnings at the 25th percentile	36,000	35,000	33,000	36,000	29,000	•	30,000
Earnings at the 75th percentile	80,000	75,000	80,000	75,000	56,000	•	60,000
Difference	44,000	40,000	47,000	39,000	27,000	•	30,000

PERCENT OBTAINING A GRADUATE DEGREE

Did not obtain graduate degree (%)	48	46	36	44	46	60	64
Obtain graduate degree (%)	52	54	64	56	54	40	36

EARNINGS BOOST FROM OBTAINING A GRADUATE DEGREE

% Earnings Boost from Graduate Degree	86	101	101	106	49	•	74
---------------------------------------	----	-----	-----	-----	----	---	----

WORK STATUS*

Full-time (%)	83	81	83	80	71	80	83
Part-time (%)	17	19	17	20	29	20	17

PERCENT EMPLOYED**

Employed (%)	95	95	95	95	97	98	94
--------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

[†] The ACS data are best used to discuss distributional characteristics of the underlying population. However, we also include the number of degree holders to provide the reader with an 'order of magnitude' sense of the number of people with this major.

* Full-time, full-year workers with a terminal Bachelor's.

• Sample size was too small to be statistically valid.

** Of people in the labor force.

	Environmental Science	Genetics	Microbiology	Miscellaneous Biology	Molecular Biology	Neuroscience	Pharmacology	Physiology	Zoology
POPULARITY OF MAJORS†									
	97,406	7,977	61,196	32,133	22,138	8,380	4,257	42,944	50,682
	8	1	5	3	2	1	<0.5	4	4
MEDIAN EARNINGS BY MAJOR*									
	51,000	•	60,000	50,000	45,000	•	•	45,000	50,000
EARNINGS AT THE 25TH AND 75TH PERCENTILE*									
	37,000	•	37,000	35,000	28,000	•	•	33,000	38,000
	72,000	•	84,000	72,000	63,000	•	•	75,000	75,000
	35,000	•	47,000	37,000	35,000	•	•	42,000	37,000
PERCENT OBTAINING A GRADUATE DEGREE									
	71	39	47	61	43	43	45	45	39
	29	61	53	39	57	57	55	55	61
EARNINGS BOOST FROM OBTAINING A GRADUATE DEGREE									
	40	•	67	47	115	•	•	78	123
WORK STATUS*									
	84	99	81	81	84	78	69	76	82
	16	1	19	19	16	22	31	24	18
PERCENT EMPLOYED**									
	93	96	94	96	98	94	100	96	92

† The ACS data are best used to discuss distributional characteristics of the underlying population. However, we also include the number of degree holders to provide the reader with an 'order of magnitude' sense of the number of people with this major.

* Full-time, full-year workers with a terminal Bachelor's.

• Sample size was too small to be statistically valid.

** Of people in the labor force.

GENDER

	Science– Life/Physical	Biology and Life Science Major Group	Biochemical Sciences	Biology	Botany	Cognitive Science and Biopsychology	Ecology
GENDER COMPOSITION OF MAJORS							
Percent Female	49	55	52	57	60	53	60
Percent Male	51	45	48	43	40	47	40
EARNINGS BY GENDER*							
Female Median Earnings	46,000	45,000	49,000	45,000	•	•	40,000
Male Median Earnings	60,000	57,000	60,000	58,000	•	•	51,000
Difference	14,000	12,000	11,000	13,000	•	•	11,000

* Full-time, full-year workers with a terminal Bachelor's.

• Sample size was too small to be statistically valid.

RACE AND ETHNICITY

	Science– Life/Physical	Biology and Life Science Major Group	Biochemical Sciences	Biology	Botany	Cognitive Science and Biopsychology	Ecology
RACIAL AND ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF MAJORS^Δ							
% White	75	76	68	75	72	64	88
% African- American	7	7	5	9	5	6	2
% Hispanic	6	6	6	6	4	11	6
% Asian	11	11	20	10	17	16	4
% Other Races and Ethnicities	1	1	1	1	1	3	1

^Δ Due to rounding, these may not add to 100 percent.

Environmental
Science

Genetics

Microbiology

Miscellaneous
Biology

Molecular Biology

Neuroscience

Pharmacology

Physiology

Zoology

GENDER COMPOSITION OF MAJORS

43	55	62	45	52	64	56	55	50
57	45	38	55	48	36	44	45	50

EARNINGS BY GENDER*

42,000	•	55,000	40,000	43,000	•	•	49,000	45,000
55,000	•	68,000	57,000	50,000	•	•	45,000	57,000
13,000	•	13,000	17,000	7,000	•	•	-4,000	12,000

* Full-time, full-year workers with a terminal Bachelor's.

• Sample size was too small to be statistically valid.

Environmental
Science

Genetics

Microbiology

Miscellaneous
Biology

Molecular Biology

Neuroscience

Pharmacology

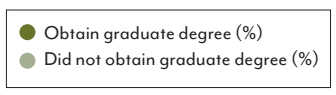
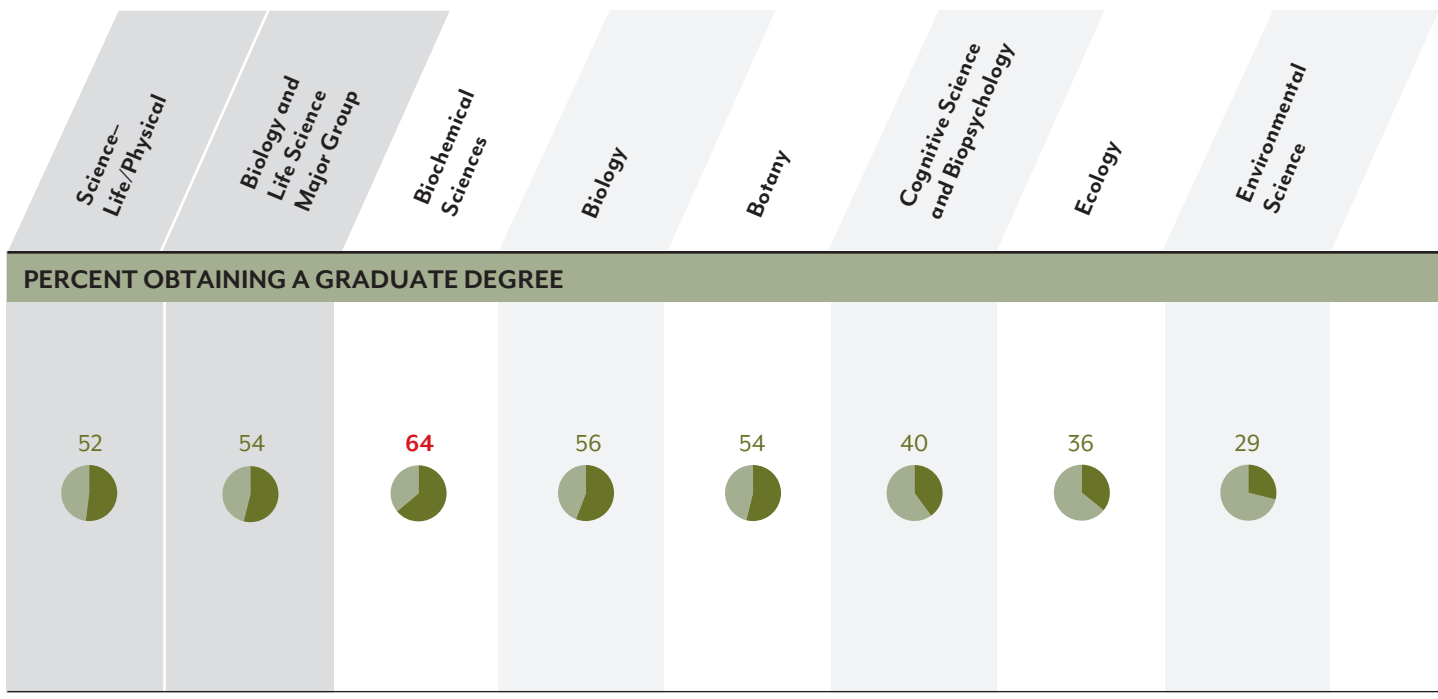
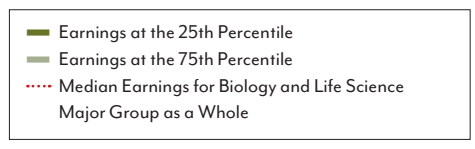
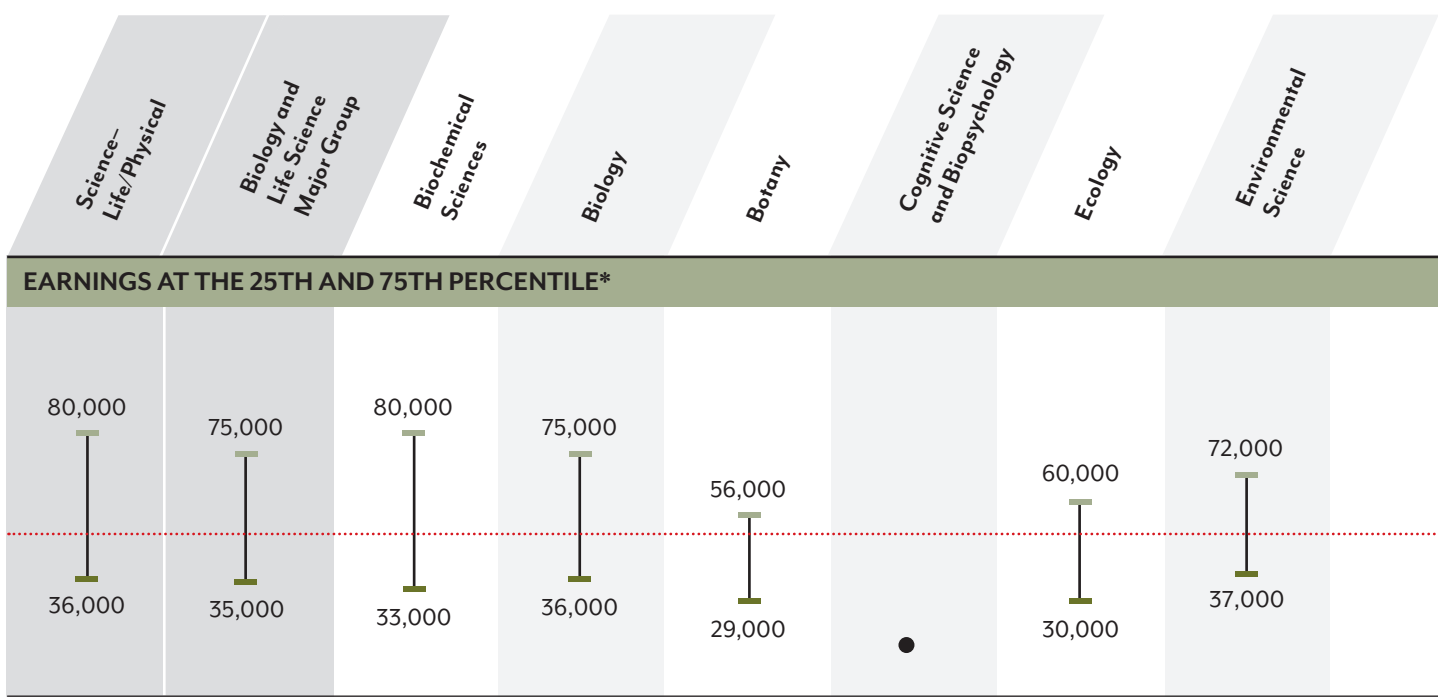
Physiology

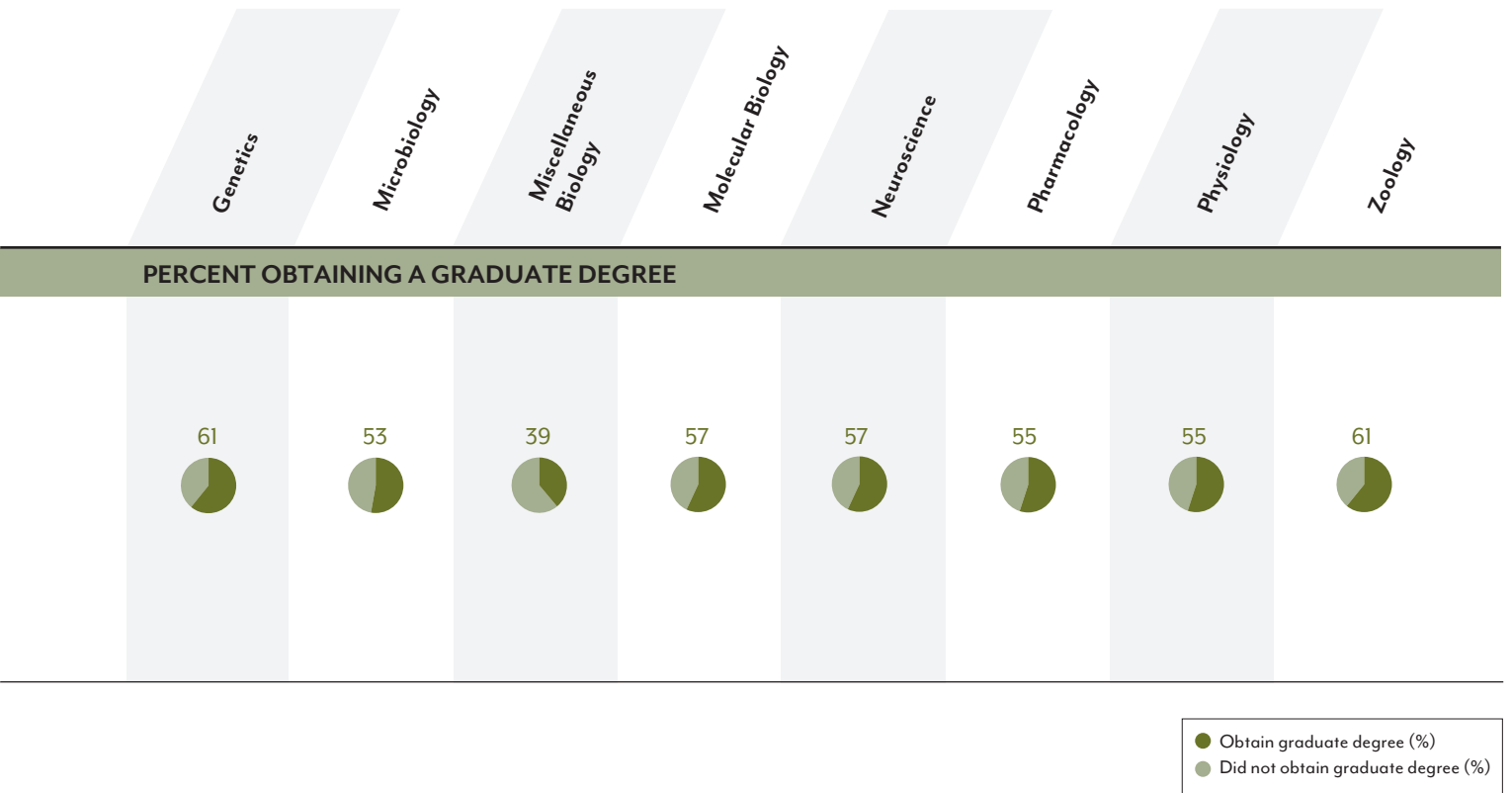
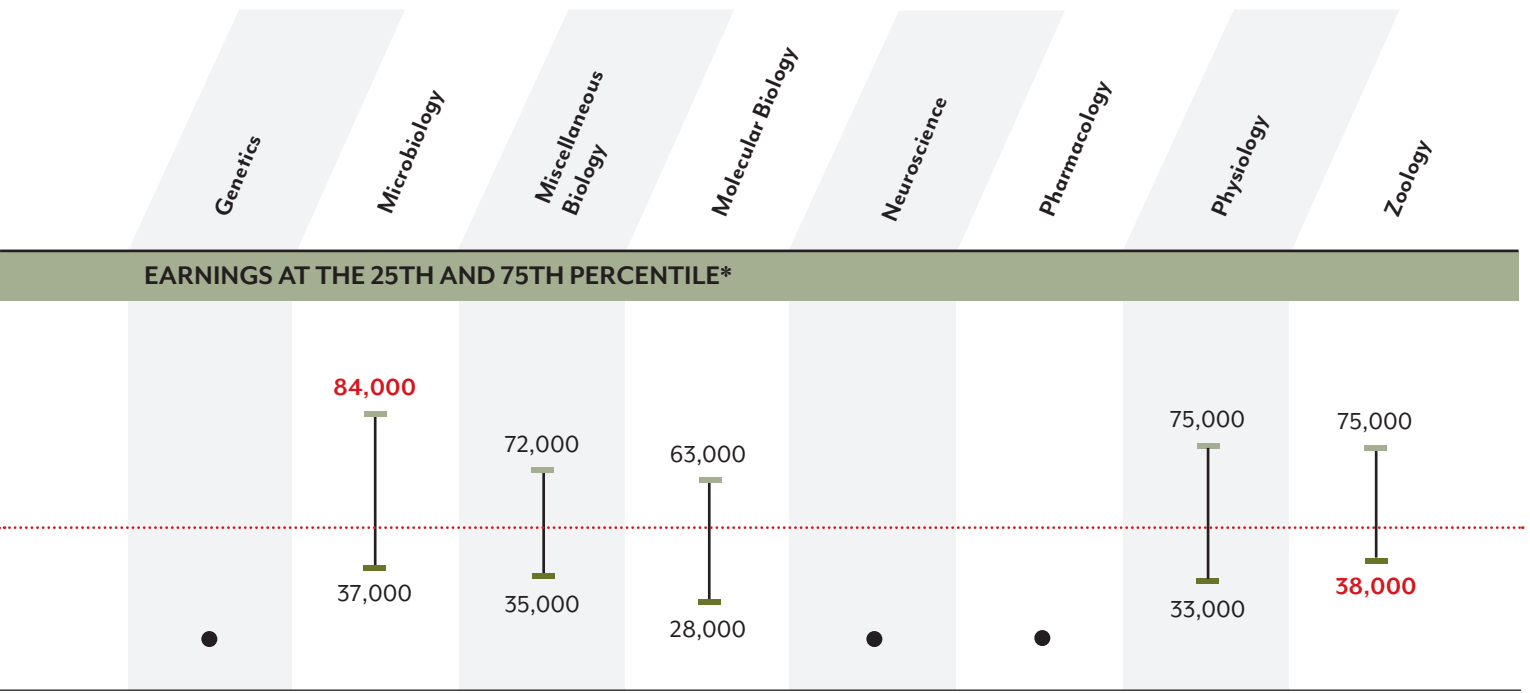
Zoology

RACIAL AND ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF MAJORS^Δ

88	74	71	80	68	67	72	75	82
3	8	7	4	6	5	1	7	4
5	<0.5	5	8	7	1	7	8	3
3	18	17	8	16	27	19	10	10
1	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	3	<0.5	<0.5	1	1

^Δ Due to rounding, these may not add to 100 percent.





WHERE BIOLOGY AND LIFE SCIENCE MAJORS END UP BY OCCUPATION*

	1st Occupation (%)	2nd Occupation (%)	3rd Occupation (%)	4th Occupation (%)	5th Occupation (%)
Science– Life/Physical	MGMT (17)	HLTH PROF (13)	LS (11)	SALES (11)	OFF (8)
Biology and Life Science Major Group	MGMT (16)	HLTH PROF (15)	LS (12)	SALES (11)	OFF (8)
Biochemical Sciences	LS (20)	HLTH PROF (14)	MGMT (12)	EDU (10)	SALES (8)
Biology	HLTH PROF (17)	MGMT (16)	LS (11)	SALES (11)	OFF (8)
Botany	OFF (24)	MGMT (15)	SALES (10)	LS (9)	EDU (8)
Cognitive Science and Biopsychology	MGMT (27)	SALES (14)	COMP (9)	OFF (8)	FOOD (7)
Ecology	MGMT (18)	LS (16)	SALES (9)	HLTH PROF (8)	OFF (7)
Environmental Science	MGMT (19)	LS (13)	SALES (12)	BUS (8)	OFF (6)
Genetics	LS(29)	HLTH PROF (19)	MGMT (12)	SALES (9)	COMP (8)
Microbiology	HLTH PROF (21)	MGMT(17)	LS (17)	SALES (11)	PROD (5)
Miscellaneous Biology	HLTH PROF (16)	LS (15)	MGMT (13)	PROT (11)	OFF (8)
Molecular Biology	HLTH PROF (17)	LS (17)	MGMT (13)	OFF (9)	EDU (9)
Neuroscience	HLTH PROF (28)	ENGR (22)	EDU (17)	LS (12)	MGMT (10)
Pharmacology	HLTH PROF (40)	LS (20)	ENGR (11)	COMM (10)	PROD (6)
Physiology	HLTH PROF (22)	MGMT (16)	SALES (13)	OFF (9)	COMM (5)
Zoology	MGMT (19)	SALES (13)	LS (10)	HLTH PROF (9)	OFF (7)

* Full-time, full-year workers with a terminal Bachelor's.

Occupation Abbreviations:

Architecture = ARCH
 Arts = ARTS
 Blue Collar = BC
 Building = BLDG
 Business = BUS
 Community Service = COMM
 Computer Services = COMP
 Construction = CON
 Education = EDU
 Engineering = ENGR
 Finance = FIN
 Food Service = FOOD

Health Professionals = HLTH PROF
 Health Support = HLTH SUP
 Installation = INST
 Legal = LGL
 Life Science = LS
 Management = MGMT
 Office = OFF
 Personal Service = PERS
 Production = PROD
 Protective Services = PROT
 Sales = SALES
 Social Science = SS
 Transportation = TRAN

WHERE BIOLOGY AND LIFE SCIENCE MAJORS END UP BY INDUSTRY*

	1st Industry (%)	2nd Industry (%)	3rd Industry (%)	4th Industry (%)	5th Industry (%)
Science– Life/Physical	HS (17)	PROF (14)	EDU (11)	PUB (9)	MAN-nd (8)
Biology and Life Science Major Group	HS (19)	PROF (14)	EDU (11)	PUB (9)	MAN-nd (8)
Biochemical Sciences	MAN-nd (18)	EDU (16)	PROF (15)	HS (15)	MAN-d (9)
Biology	HS (21)	PROF (13)	EDU (11)	MAN-nd (8)	PUB (8)
Botany	PUB (13)	RETL (12)	EDU (11)	AG (8)	HS (8)
Cognitive Science and Biopsychology	PROF (27)	EDU (10)	WHLS-nd (9)	INFO (9)	FIN (8)
Ecology	PROF (16)	HS (10)	PUB (10)	ARTS (9)	FIN (7)
Environmental Science	PROF (19)	PUB (17)	RETL (7)	MAN-nd (6)	EDU (6)
Genetics	PROF (31)	EDU (19)	HS (14)	MAN-d (9)	FS (9)
Microbiology	HS (30)	PROF (14)	MAN-nd (12)	EDU (8)	RETL (7)
Miscellaneous Biology	PUB (22)	HS (15)	PROF (11)	EDU (8)	FIN (6)
Molecular Biology	PROF (22)	HS (22)	EDU (17)	MAN-nd (7)	MAN-d (7)
Neuroscience	EDU (59)	PROF (23)	HS (8)	ADMIN (5)	RETL (2)
Pharmacology	RETL (34)	MAN-d (16)	HS (15)	PROF (13)	EDU (11)
Physiology	HS (32)	EDU (9)	RETL (7)	FIN (7)	PUB (7)
Zoology	HS (13)	EDU (12)	PROF (11)	PUB (11)	MAN-nd (7)

* Full-time, full-year workers with a terminal Bachelor's.

Industry Abbreviations:

Administrative Services = ADMN
 Agriculture = AG
 Arts = ARTS
 Construction = CON
 Education Services = EDU
 Financial Services = FIN
 Food Service = FS
 Health Services = HS
 Information = INFO
 Management Services = MGMT
 Manufacturing (durable) = MAN-d
 Manufacturing (non-durable) = MAN-nd

Mining = MNG
 Other Service = OS
 Professional Services = PROF
 Public Administration = PUB
 Real Estate = RE
 Retail Trade = RETL
 Sales = SALES
 Social Science = SS
 Transportation = TRAN
 Utilities = UTIL
 Wholesale Trade (durable) = WHLS-d
 Wholesale Trade (non-durable) = WHLS-nd