


Have you ever dreamed of being a super hero? People in this sector work daily to save lives and enhance quality of life. By fusing the power of life science and evolving technology, new drugs, medical equipment and cures to disease are created and discovered. Roles in this sector might involve finding the right molecules to bind together or using technology to re-sequence and edit DNA.



64,671
People
employed



4%
Proportion of
San Diego County
jobs within sector



883
Number of
businesses



How do I start my career?

Do some research

- Use Career Coach at workforce.org/careercoach to explore which occupations align with your interests, see a behind-the-scenes peek at what a career looks like and discover local companies.

Expand your network


- Use social media tools like LinkedIn to network with professionals. Request an informational interview to ask them about their career path, education and job responsibilities.
- Attend a public talk at the **Salk Institute** to meet professionals and learn more about career paths within the sciences

Get hands-on experience

- Apply for internships at San Diego companies like Illumina, Genentech, or Organovo

Get training

- For many careers in this sector you may want to consider bachelor's and advanced degrees in fields related to biological sciences.
- Some careers require a shorter amount of training. Check out biotechnology programs at MiraCosta College and San Diego Miramar College.



San Diego is ranked as one of the top five life sciences regions in the U.S., with more than 80 research institutions in the county. Many of these are small labs, so remember them in your job search!

Subsectors

- Pharmaceutical manufacturing
- Medical devices and equipment manufacturing
- Research & testing laboratories, bioscience & biotechnology

Learn more at workforce.org/mynextmove

What can I do? sample occupations

Doctoral degree
 Master's or professional degree
 Bachelor's degree
 Associate degree or certificate
 High school diploma or less

Educational levels are typical for each occupation, but various employers may have slightly higher or lower minimum requirements.

FOUND PRIMARILY IN THIS SECTOR

Occupation	Employed 2018 ¹	Median hourly pay	Typical entry-level education
★ Natural Sciences Managers	656	\$69	
Microbiologists	621	\$54	
★ Medical Scientists	2,856	\$49	
★ Biomedical Engineers	581	\$44	
★ Biochemists and Biophysicists	939	\$44	
Biological Technicians	1,910	\$24	
Environmental Science and Protection Technicians	241	\$24	
Agricultural and Food Science Technicians	195	\$20	

¹ Number employed this industry group

★ Priority occupations are predicted to have high growth and a high number of annual job openings in San Diego County over the next five years

COMMON IN THIS AND OTHER SECTORS

Occupation	Employed 2018 ¹	Median hourly pay	Typical entry-level education
★ Software Developers, Applications and Systems	2,377	\$53	
Computer Systems Analysts	672	\$45	
★ Mechanical Engineers	1,158	\$44	
★ Management Analysts	2,024	\$37	
Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists	986	\$30	
Sales Representatives	1,507	\$28	
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	1,088	\$19	
Assemblers and Fabricators	1,199	\$14	

Where can I work? sample employers

ResMed ESTABLISHED: 1989	Deals primarily in equipment related to the treatment of sleep-related breathing disorders, including sleep apnea, and other respiratory conditions	5,001–10,000 employees
Genentech ESTABLISHED: 1976	Using biotechnology, Genentech helps discover medicines for people with serious diseases, such as cancer and multiple sclerosis	10,000+
Illumina Inc. ESTABLISHED: 1998	Uses innovative technologies to help customers understand genetic variations in order to provide better health care	5,001–10,000
Celgene Corporation ESTABLISHED: 1986	Creates new therapies for treating cancer and inflammatory diseases	5,001–10,000
Organovo ESTABLISHED: 2007	Biotech company that has the ability to 3D bio-print tissue with human functionality	51–200

