Cell Biology and Genetics

Using information from the University of Maryland graduation survey, we have compiled information about Cell Biology and Genetics majors, such as where they work or go to graduate school post-graduation. Check out the topics below to learn more about planning for your career! For more information, follow the link to the University Career Center at CMNS (UCC@CMNS): go.umd.edu/uccatcmns

Industries and Career Paths

Cell Biology and Genetics majors are employed by governmental, industrial and academic organizations and non-academic settings. A primary mission of the Department of Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics is to provide undergraduate students with an education that integrates theoretical concepts with laboratory and research skills, while giving students opportunities to grow and build a knowledge base for productive careers. This specialization will specifically prepare students for graduate study in a wide variety of modern fields, as well as for further study and careers in medicine, dentistry, forensic science, genetic counseling, or work in the biotechnology industry.

Organizations

The following list showcases employers of UMD Cell Biology and Genetics undergraduates:

- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine
- ScribeAmerica
- Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences
- Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
- Gene Dx
- MicroHealth
- AgilOne
- Washington Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine
- Rx Biosciences
- United Allergy Services
- Aerotek
- Covance

Job Titles

The sample job titles below exemplify positions Cell Biology and Genetics majors are qualified for upon graduation. This is not an exhaustive list, but a starting point for exploration.

- Scribe
- Implementation Consultant
- Research Assistant/Technician
- Post-baccalaureate Researcher
- Laboratory Assistant/Technician
- Care Coordinator
- Genetic Counseling Assistant
- Repository Technician
- Associate
- Manufacturing Associate
- Bioinformatics Analyst
- Science Health Policy Analyst
- Client Navigator
- Clinical Allergy Specialist

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Graduate Schools

The following is a list of schools where graduates are pursuing graduate degrees:

- Cambridge University
- Cornell University
- George Mason University
- George Washington University
- Georgetown University
- Howard University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Temple University
- University of Chicago
- University of Maryland
- University of Maryland, Baltimore
- University of Michigan
- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- University of Pennsylvania

Skills Developed as a Cell Biology and Genetics Major

The University of Maryland will prepare each student with many different skills to take into the workplace. These skills will come from academic coursework as well as co-curricular experiential learning opportunities. For insight into what employers are looking for, review the skills inventory list (go.umd.edu/skillslist) to examine ways to include technical and cross-disciplinary skills on a resume, in interviews and on LinkedIn. The following link highlights “must have” career readiness competencies, according to employers: (go.umd.edu/fourcompetencies).

This major will prepare you with the following technical and cross-disciplinary skills to:

1. define a research question and design an experiment to answer it in a meaningful and scientific way
2. gather and analyze data, to see relationships among different factors affecting the data, and to draw meaningful conclusions from these data
3. apply appropriate mathematical calculations and modeling to scientific problems
4. communicate via research proposals, journal papers, and oral presentations
5. collaborate efficiently and productively with other researchers
6. master computers and other technology, such as centrifuges, microscopes, spectrophotometers, and electrophysiological data collection equipment

Cell Biology and Genetics Major Resources

The following resources will help you explore relevant career paths, as well as job postings:

- American Institute of Biological Sciences: aibs.org
- American Society for Cell Biology: ascb.org
- Genetics Society of America: genetics-gsa.org
- Vault – Employer/Industry insights, rankings and reviews: vault.com

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