Life and Physical Sciences are growing fields in the U.S. Within this sector, professionals are conducting research, developing products, and informing policy that changes the way in which we interact with the world around us. Students interested in this field may take on a variety of roles from the business side of science, to the applied or technical side of science. Those working on the applied or technical side of science often work in hands-on environments, conducting research or field work. Those on the business side are often more ‘behind-the-scenes’ supporting the work of the organization through financial, marketing, human resources, technical writing, or legal roles.

RESOURCES AT BOSTON COLLEGE

- Chemistry Club – American Chemical Society Student Chapter
- EcoPledge
- Society of Physics Students
- University Fellowships Committee
- Science Departmental Seminars

SKILLS REQUIRED

- Critical thinking
- Complex problem solving
- Writing
- Reading comprehension
- Organization and time management

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS & JOB SEARCH SITES

- National Science Foundation: nsf.gov
- Massachusetts Biotechnology Council: massbio.org
- Massachusetts Life Sciences Center: masslifesciences.com
- Massachusetts Clean Energy Center: masscec.com
- American Chemical Society: acs.org
- American Institute of Physics: aip.org
- American Physical Society: aps.org
- American Institute of Biological Sciences: aibs.org
- The Ecological Society of America: esa.org
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): noaa.gov

JOB SEARCH & INTERVIEW PROCESS

For research and laboratory positions in the sciences, much of this hiring will take place in the spring. Students should focus on networking and building connections beforehand. For larger organizations and for business roles within scientific organizations, these roles are often recruited for in the fall.

Students should be prepared to answer behavioral questions in an interview. In addition, it will also be important to prepare for more technical questions about your understanding of proper research protocol and procedures or questions evaluating your knowledge of scientific disciplines that relate to the organization’s research.

Previous internship and even campus laboratory and research experience in this area will be desirable to employers, and these experiences can be pursued at Boston College in campus laboratories or elsewhere locally.
MAJOR EMPLOYERS OF BC STUDENTS IN LIFE AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES

Biotechnology & Pharmaceuticals
- Biogen
- Merck
- Pfizer
- Roche
- Sanofi Genzyme
- Shire
- Takeda Oncology

Scientific Research
- Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
- Boston Children’s Hospital
- Boston University
- Brigham and Women’s Hospital
- Broad Institute
- Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- Harvard University
- Massachusetts General Hospital
- Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
- Northeastern University
- Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research

Environmental Services & Energy
- AECOM
- EBI Consulting
- EnerNOC
- VHB

JOB DESCRIPTIONS WITHIN LIFE AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES

Life Sciences – Individuals working in the life sciences work with all types of living organisms including cells, plants, animals, and humans. Specific roles within the life sciences may be research, field, or development based. Specialties may include: biochemistry, botany, horticulture, zoology, biomedical engineering, drug development, genetic engineering, marine biology, microbiology, veterinary and medical studies.

Physical Sciences – Those working in the physical sciences examine inanimate natural objects. As with life sciences, many of the roles in physical sciences are research based. Careers within the physical sciences include: conservationists, geologists, physicists, hydrologists, oceanographers, earth scientists, and audio engineers.

Within the life and physical sciences, professionals work in both technical and non-technical roles. Researchers, scientists, and engineers are supported by the business operations within their organization.

Students interested in education may pursue a terminal degree in the Life or Physical Sciences and become a professor in these areas, allowing them to actively engage in their fields of expertise and conduct funded research.

Please Note: This handout is intended to be a sampling of resources. For additional information, please schedule an appointment through EagleLink.