

CAREERS FOR

Biochemistry

MAJORS

Biochemistry is the study of the chemical processes of living organisms. Biochemistry majors gain in-depth knowledge of biology, chemistry, and the basic functions of life, from how organisms metabolize nutrients to the mechanisms of disease. [The Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology](#) offers undergraduates a special opportunity to be immersed in the cutting-edge research setting of the [UNM School of Medicine](#). In partnership with the College of Arts and Sciences, the Department offers both BA and BS [degree paths in Biochemistry](#). Biochemistry graduates often pursue careers in healthcare, biomedical research, and the pharmaceutical industry. Other graduates work in areas such as technology, public health, and forensic science. Biochemistry is an excellent foundation for continued study in research-oriented PhD programs and professional healthcare programs such as medical school.

Industries & Occupations

Research & Medicine

- Biochemist,* physician,* physician assistant,* pharmaceutical research, medical technologist, laboratory technician, chemical technician, bioinformatics, biomedical engineering

Government & Policy

- Local, state, and federal agencies in public health, disease surveillance, conservation, natural resource management, national security, and law enforcement

Business & Technology

- Research and development manager, natural sciences manager, technical consulting services

Education

- University faculty,* secondary school science teacher*

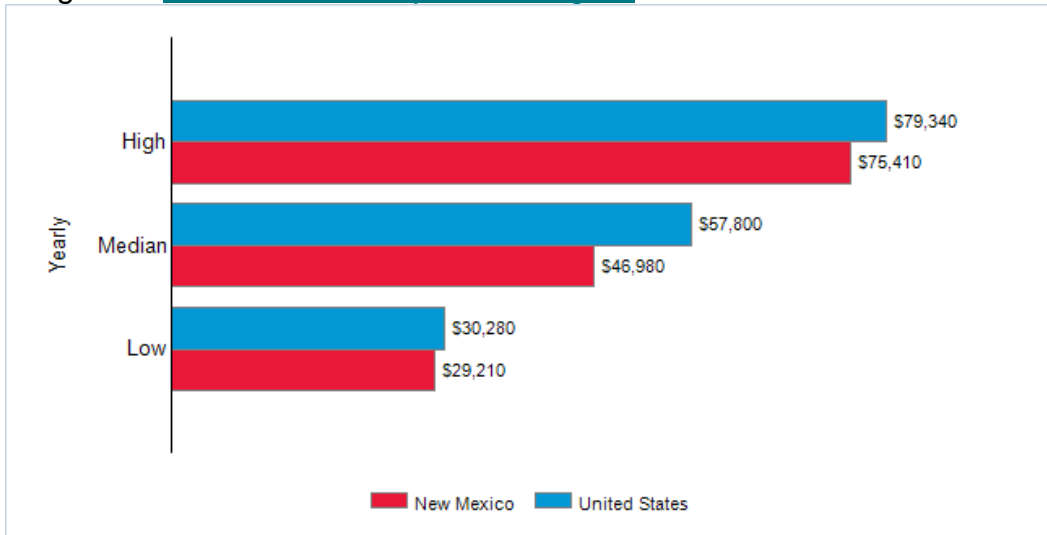
**Occupations require graduate education (Master's, PhD, or MD) and/or professional licensure.*

Selected Employment & Internship Opportunities

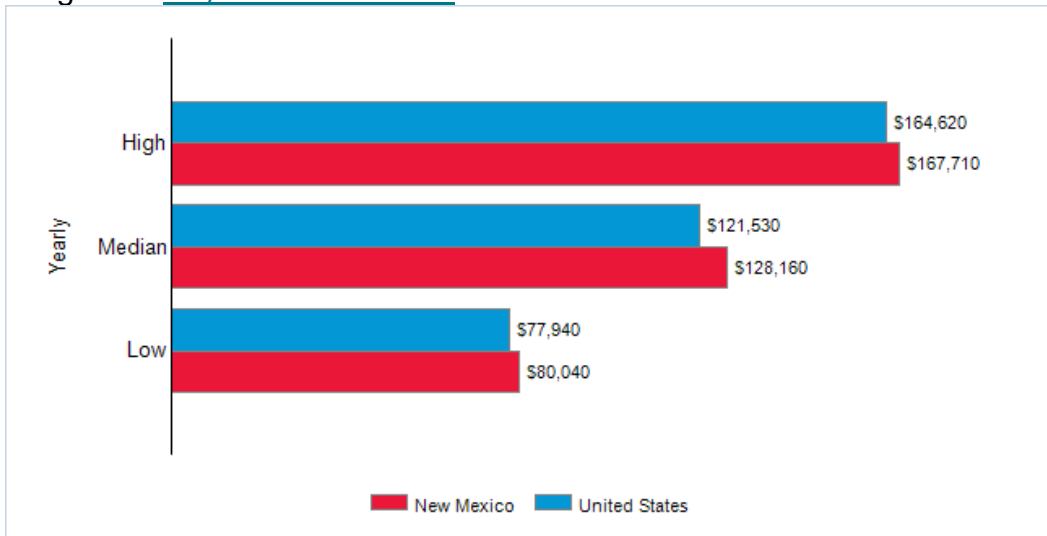
TriCore Reference Laboratories, Curia Global, Pathology Consultants of New Mexico, UNM Hospital, Lovelace Biomedical Research Institute, Office of the Medical Investigator, Southwest Labs, Indian Health Service, Veterans Health Administration, Sandia National Laboratories, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, U.S. Department of Energy

Salary Information

Yearly Wages for [Clinical Laboratory Technologists](#) in New Mexico



Yearly Wages for [Physician Assistants*](#) in New Mexico



**Occupation requires graduate education and professional license.*

Tips

- Research experience in a clinical laboratory setting is excellent preparation for all career paths in biochemistry. The Department of Biochemistry houses [eight different labs](#) doing cutting-edge research in areas including forensic science, the causes of health disparities, and the mechanisms of breast cancer. Contact labs and speak to your professors about ways for undergraduates to get involved!
- Considering medical school or other health professions? [Pre-Health Professions Student Development](#) can help you prepare.

- UNM's annual [Health Professions Symposium](#) is a great opportunity to learn more about the many career paths in healthcare. Consider volunteering to help plan the next event!
- Check out these career guides and professional development resources from the [American Chemical Society](#) and the [American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology](#).
- Considering earning a PhD? Apply for the [McNair Scholars Program](#), which provides research opportunities, support with applying to grad school, and a summer stipend!
- Need more research experience after graduation before applying to graduate school? Apply for the NIH-funded [PREP program at UNM](#) or another [participating institution](#) to get paid experience doing biomedical research with a faculty mentor.
- Some Biochemistry graduates work for federal government agencies. Programs for [students and recent grads](#) are a great way to get started with federal service.
- Considering teaching at the K-12 level? You may wish to pursue an [alternative teacher licensure program](#).

Learn More

Professional Associations

[National Association for Biomedical Research](#)

[American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology](#)

[American Chemical Society](#)

[American Institute of Biological Sciences](#)

[American Medical Association](#)

[American Academy of Physician Assistants](#)

[American Society for Cell Biology](#)

[American Medical Technologists](#)

[American Society for Clinical Pathology](#)

[American Association of Bioanalysts](#)

[Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies](#)

Other Resources

[Handshake](#)

[O*NET](#)

- [Biochemists and Biophysicists](#)
- [Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists](#)

[Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)

- [Healthcare Occupations](#)
- [Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations](#)

[Student Activities Center](#)

[Buzzfile Employers by Major](#)