

Microbiologist (19-1022.00)

At-a-Glance Statistics

Sample Job Titles

Bacteriologist, Clinical Laboratory Scientist, Clinical Microbiologist, Microbiological Analyst, Microbiological Laboratory Technician, Microbiologist, Microbiology Director, Microbiology Laboratory Manager, Quality Control Microbiologist (QC Microbiologist), Study Director

Key Tasks

- Isolate and maintain cultures of bacteria or other microorganisms in prescribed or developed media, controlling moisture, aeration, temperature, and nutrition.
- Study growth, structure, development, and general characteristics of bacteria and other microorganisms to understand their relationship to human, plant, and animal health.
- Examine physiological, morphological, and cultural characteristics, using microscope, to identify and classify microorganisms in human, water, and food specimens.
- Provide laboratory services for health departments, for community environmental health programs, and for physicians needing information for diagnosis and treatment.
- Investigate the relationship between organisms and disease, including the control of epidemics and the effects of antibiotics on microorganisms.
- Prepare technical reports and recommendations based upon research outcomes.
- Supervise biological technologists and technicians and other scientists.
- Monitor and perform tests on water, food, and the environment to detect harmful microorganisms or to obtain information about sources of pollution, contamination, or infection.
- Observe action of microorganisms upon living tissues of plants, higher animals, and other microorganisms, and on dead organic matter.
- Study the structure and function of human, animal, and plant tissues, cells, pathogens and toxins.

Education and Training



Bachelor's
Degree

48%



Post-
baccalaureate
certificate

17%



Master's
Degree

13%

Top Industries



Government
Professional, Scientific,
and Technical Services

Number Employed



22,000 positions

2,100 job openings

Median Wages



Hourly

\$34.45



Annually

\$71,650

Top Ten States for Occupational Percentage Growth

