

Careers in the life sciences

What are the careers within the life sciences?

How do those careers work together to solve health-related problems?

In this lesson, students will compare careers within the life sciences and consider how they might work together to solve health-related issues.

Ohio Standards

Grades 3–12

- *Nature of Science:* All students should have sufficient understanding of scientific knowledge and scientific processes to enable them to distinguish what is science from what is not science and to make informed decisions about career choices, health maintenance, quality of life, community, and other decisions that impact themselves and others.

Student prior knowledge

Students should have a working definition of “life science” that encompasses what topics life science might cover.

Suggested timeline

One to two class periods

Materials

- Scenario cards
- Access to the internet

Teacher preparation

1. Copy scenario cards for students.
2. Provide internet access for potential research.

Procedure

1. Introduce the activity by asking students to look at the two graphs showing careers within several categories of “life science careers.” Ask them to discuss with their seat mates the differences between the US percentages and the Ohio percentages. Share out their observations.
2. Ask: What might these percentages mean to someone looking for a career in the life sciences?
3. Show the deck.
4. Assign, or ask students to choose, a scenario to investigate and name 5–10 careers that would work together to solve the issue presented.

Suggested wrap-up

- Have students discuss how they might make a career choice.
- Ask students for their next steps can encourage some self-reflection. A life sciences career is not for everyone, but perhaps this lesson will encourage students to take something related off their list, or start them thinking about other possible career paths. This is the best result of the discussion!

Making a career choice is a difficult and personal decision. Personal, psychological, social, environmental, and educational factors will impact career decision-making. Talking to a trusted adult, assessing gifts and talents for various activities, trying out different careers by shadowing someone in a career of interest, spending time learning more about a career of interest through reading or watching videos, and actually experiencing activities that relate directly to that career can be very helpful in determining if a career is a good fit.

Differentiation

- Scenarios can be assigned based on student interests/abilities.
- Students can be encouraged to do further research.

Extensions

Encourage students to do further research on a career of interest.

Support information

- US Bureau of Labor Statistics: data.bls.gov
- Biotility: iotech-careers.org/careers

Career connections

See above.