

What Can I Do With a Major in Neuroscience?

A major in Neuroscience prepares students for:

- graduate studies in cell biology and neuroscience
- entry into professional schools (medicine, dentistry or other health related fields)
- employment in industrial and pharmaceutical companies

To market the skills and knowledge gained in a neuroscience and/or related major, students should engage in:

- research, internships, and/or related work experiences
- college activities
- maintaining a solid GPA

Areas of Research (<http://www.usc.edu/programs/neuroscience/research/>)

- **Behavioral, Systems, & Cognitive Neuroscience** – Investigating the function and structural organization of neural circuits.
- **Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience** – Investigates the mechanisms that shape neural signaling by studying how molecules work together in space and time to regulate the functional properties of neurons.
- **Development, Plasticity, & Repair** – Examines mechanism at all stages, from when the neuronal pathways essential for communication within the brain are generated, through to when the specificity of neural connections is shaped by experiential inputs.
- **Computational Neuroscience and Neural Engineering** – Involves the use of computers and other technologies to study the information processing functions of the brain.
- **Aging, Neurobiology of Disease, & Translational Research**– Focuses on the cellular and molecular mechanisms of disease; the neural systems underpinning behavioral disorders; the genetics of inherited or acquired neurological and psychiatric diseases; and research directed at developing potential therapies, including drugs that modulate synaptic plasticity and repair by stem cells.

Professional Associations

- Society for Neuroscience - <http://www.sfn.org/>
- Association of Neuroscience Departments and Programs - <http://www.andp.org/>
- International Society for the History of Neurosciences - <http://www.ishn.org/>

Related Careers and Job Titles
(review average salary range on salary.com and O*Net)

Research (academic or industry)

- Geneticist
- Biochemist
- Physiologist
- Biophysicist
- Microbiologist
- Marine biologist
- Cell biologist
- Medical illustrator

Medical/Health

- Physician / Physician's Assistant*
- Public health
- Health analyst/manager

- Medical tech
- Dentist
- Psychologist/psychiatry
- Pharmacist
- Neuroimaging technician

Business

- Pharmaceutical sales
- Product manager
- Marketing/sales representative
- Industrial hygienist
- R & D director
- Quality control analyst

In order to determine a salary, research the particular specialization you are interested in

Related Websites and Job Search Engines

- The Journal of Neuroscience <http://www.jneurosci.org/>
- Society for Neuroscience's NEUROjobs http://www.jobtarget.com/home/index.cfm?site_id=397
- NeuroCareer.com <http://www.neurocareer.com/?gclid=CIK9zt6FvooCFR1hYQodt0uaQw>
- National Institutes of Health (NIH) <http://neuroscience.nih.gov/index.asp>

Types of Employers

Private and Non-Profit Organizations

Biopharmaceutical
Companies
Educational Institutions
Manufacturing Firms
Biotechnology
Companies
Environ. Consulting

Firms
Pharmaceutical
Companies
Chemical Manufacturers
Food Manufacturers
Research Foundations
Clinics

Health Care Producers
Scientific Journals
Consulting Firms
Hospitals
Testing Labs

Government Agencies

Air Pollution Control
Fish & Wildlife Service
State Dept. of Health
Centers for Disease Control
Food & Drug Administration
OSHA
Dept. of Agriculture
Land Use Planning Comm.

Peace Corps/AmeriCorps.
Dept. of Environmental Protection
Nat'l. Institutes of Health
U.S. Forest Service
Environ. Protection Agency
National Park Service
Water Resource Council