



NATURAL
RESOURCES

Biological Technician

A Biological Technician assist conservationists and environmental scientists in studying living organisms and their life cycle, mostly within a laboratory setting.



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career profile

*Name: Andrea Reynolds
Job Title: Biological
Technician*


Employer: Plant Pathology Services, Inc.

Education: AAS, Southwest Tennessee Community College: Memphis

 I am often asked why I chose to be a biological technician. My simple reply is that I like working in a laboratory. In high school, I remember looking forward to the lab activities in my biology and agriculture classes. Those experiences gave me a pretty good idea of the type of work I wanted to do. My teacher said the local community college had a good biological technician program, and I enrolled.

 The duties of biological technicians vary according to the field in which they work. I've elected to work in a plant pathology lab. The focus of our lab is the study of pathogens that cause crop diseases. We seek ways to manage the diseases to improve yields. In the lab, my chief role is to assist the scientists. I set up,

operate, calibrate, and maintain laboratory instruments and equipment. I monitor tests and experiments and make observations. I record results and perform calculations. I may be asked to prepare reports of lab results for internal and external use. I also order supplies needed for daily laboratory processes and activities.

 I'm happy with my career choice. The company I work for is well-managed, my supervisor gives me a lot of responsibility, and the nature of the work is interesting. I like having to follow lab protocols when conducting tests in order to obtain valid results.



Biological Technician

overview



A **biological technician** assists conservationists and environmental scientists in studying living organisms and their life cycles, mostly within a laboratory setting.

suggested high school courses



agricultural science, environmental science, chemistry, physics, biology, botany, and mathematics

experience needed



Participate on campus in labs and research trials when possible. Plan and implement a related Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Program.

degree(s) required



An associate's degree in biology, horticulture, plant physiology, environmental science, natural resources, soil science, or a related field is required.

potential employers



agricultural research firms, colleges and universities, conservation organizations, environmental organizations, food processing companies, governmental agencies

salary range



\$33,280 to \$46,980

employment outlook and trends



The employment outlook for biological technicians is **average**.

professional organizations



American Institute of Biological Sciences www.aibs.org/home/index.html

Institute of Food Technologists www.ift.org/



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