



# STEM Careers

## Molecular Biologist

**Job Description:** Molecular Biologists study how genes in cells cause biological characteristics and functions in organisms.

### What does a Molecular Biologist do?

- Study the detailed genetic make-up of plants, animals, humans, bacteria, and fungi.
- Study DNA for medical testing for disease-causing organisms and to test for inherited genetic disorders.
- Manipulate genes to breed new crop plants or livestock.
- Aid in the development of new medicines.
- Use DNA fingerprinting to provide law enforcement with evidence to help solve crimes.
- Perform lab procedures including DNA sequencing, cloning and extraction, RNA purification, or gel electrophoresis.
- Instruct undergraduate or graduate students within the areas of cellular or molecular biology.

### Your Interests:

- Do you like to look at things under a microscope?
- Do you like to help other people?
- Can you clearly communicate your ideas with others?
- Are you good at observing and then reporting what you see?

### Outlook: **Bright**

Average Salary - \$31.98 hourly, \$66,510 annual

Projected Job Openings - 16,100 over the next 10 years

### Education/Program of Study:

- Bachelor's Degree in Biology, Microbiology, Biochemistry, or related field
- Master's Degree is required for applied research and managerial positions
- Ph.D. is necessary for independent research

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[http://quest.arc.nasa.gov/people/cfs/generic/molecular\\_biologist\\_145.pdf](http://quest.arc.nasa.gov/people/cfs/generic/molecular_biologist_145.pdf)

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