

What Can I **Do** With a Major In...

Cell Biology & NeuroScience?

MSU graduates (Bachelor's degree) were hired in the following selected fields¹:

Research Assistant/Specialist – Montana State University
Floor Manager- MSU Bookstore

Salary averages of survey respondents: (# of respondents in parentheses)³

2007: Insufficient Data Out of State: Insufficient Data

2006: Insufficient Data Out of State: Insufficient Data

2005: Insufficient Data Out of State: Insufficient Data

2004: Insufficient Data Out of State: Insufficient Data

Other Sources of Information:

Explore Health Careers.org: www.explorehealthcareers.org/en/index.aspx

The American Society for Cell Biology: <http://www.ascb.org/>

Society for Neuroscience: <http://www.sfn.org>

Department of Cell Biology & Neuroscience—Montana State University: <http://www.montana.edu/cbn>

For more information contact:



**MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Career, Internship, &
Student Employment
Services**

Montana State University
125 Strand Union Building
Bozeman, MT 59717
(406) 994-4353
www.montana.edu/careers/

¹University of Oregon. 2007. Created by intoCareers, a unit of the University of Oregon. Montana information Montana Career Information System. Discover: 2008 by ACT, Inc.

²Montana State University Department of Cell Biology & Neuroscience

³Montana State University Career & Internship Services

⁴Society for Neuroscience, <http://www.sfn.org/>, 2008

Number of graduates/number of respondents: 2004: 6/2; 2005: 4/3; 2006: 3/1; 2007: 7/2

What Can I Do With a Major In...

Cell Biology & Neuroscience?

Cell Biology and Neuroscience programs¹ teach the structure, function, and regulation of cells as individual units and as components of larger systems. You will also study organ systems, tissue structures, and whole bodies together with their cellular and structural components and dynamics. You will learn about the nature of DNA, how genes are regulated, and how humans and other living organisms are related. The program includes instruction in embryology, neuroanatomy, cell communication and nutrition, the life cycles of the cell, storage and transmission of genetic information, hormone generation, and the role played by cells and molecules in basic life processes such as growth and aging.

Neuroscience is the study of the nervous system, including the brain, the spinal cord, and networks of sensory nerve cells, or neurons, throughout the body. Neuroscience, advances the understanding of human thought, emotion, and behavior. Neuroscientists use tools ranging from computers to special dyes to examine molecules, nerve cells, networks, brain systems, and behavior. From these studies, they learn how the nervous system develops and functions normally and what goes wrong in neurological disorders.⁴

Programs at Montana State University² offer an exceedingly strong background for graduate and professional study in the healthcare field. Graduates in this program often pursue study as a physicians, physician's assistant, scientist, dentist, chiropractor, or occupational therapist. The number and variety of health professions and the demand for these professionals is very strong. Should you plan to pursue medical school, you will have to take the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT), in your fourth year of undergraduate study or after you graduate.

A few graduates each year decide to become scientists and apply to graduate school in the fields of neuroscience, and computational biology or bioinformatics. It is in these areas that departmental research is very strong, and students who want to become scientists often begin their scientific investigations as undergraduates in faculty laboratories.

An internship or research experience will increase your chances of finding a job in this field. You might also consider related summer work in a laboratory or research institute in order to gain experience. Because this field is ever changing, you may need further training throughout your career.

Characteristics associated with success¹ in this major include a strong aptitude for science and a desire to help improve the physical and emotional well-being of others, an interest in how things work in general, and in organisms and their development in particular.

Occupations in this field require the ability to¹:

- be a skilled problem solver
- use laboratory equipment
- work with computers
- analyze and interpret data and draw logical conclusions
- communicate well, both orally and in writing
- concentrate intensely under severe pressure
- have great physical stamina
- maintain emotional control in stressful situations
- think logically

Related occupations include¹:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Molecular Biologist | • Anesthesiologist | • Physician Assistant |
| • Researcher | • Internist | • Psychiatrist |
| • Biologist | • Obstetrician/Gynecologist | • Surgeon |
| • Sports Physician | • Pathologist | • Chiropractor |
| • Radiologist | • Pediatrician | • Dentist |
| • Coroner | • Allergist | • Physical Therapist |
| • Pharmacologist | • Physician | • Pharmacist |