



Life Sciences and Biotechnology



North (Greater Sacramento)
Career & Training Pathways Profile

2026

Five-Year Outlook

7% sector growth

650+ annual job openings

0.5% of Greater Sacramento's jobs



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Introduction



California leads the nation in Life Sciences and Biotechnology jobs and is home to a number of companies and research entities that are credited with pioneering breakthroughs in the field.

This sector includes research and development involving biological processes to develop a range of scientific tools and products, such as biopharmaceuticals, medical devices, and sustainability innovations.

Careers in this sector are a great fit for students with strong attention to detail who enjoy science, operating experiments, and working in laboratory environments.

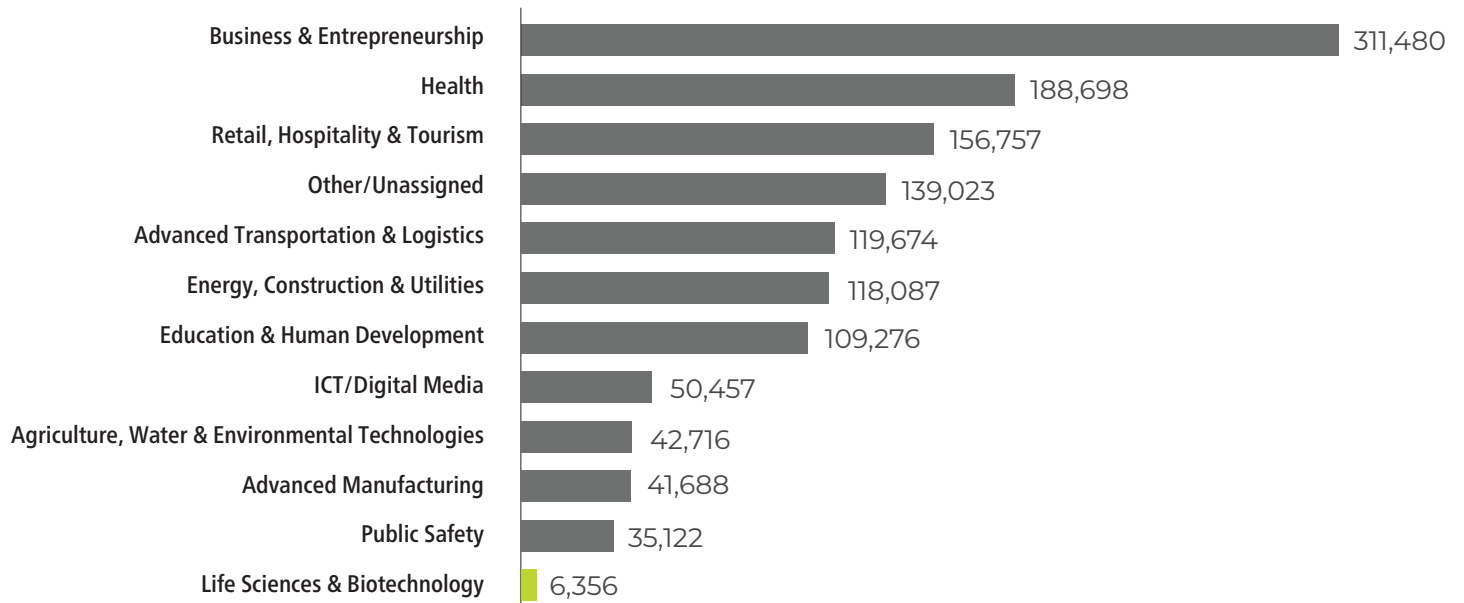
In 2024, California employed more than 450,000 workers, according to Biocom California's "2025 Life Science Economic Impact Report."

Within the state, the North Far North region plays an important role in the sector, with Sacramento County accounting for the largest share of life sciences direct employment in the state, a total of 8,480 jobs in 2024, according to Biocom California's report. Yolo County and Placer County rank fourth and eighth, respectively, in direct employment in California.

This is a sector fueled by scientific discoveries and research leading to patents. Due to large-scale processes to produce biopharmaceuticals, this sector has substantial overlap with the Advanced Manufacturing sector. Biocom California's report finds that in 2024, over 31% of life science jobs in California were in manufacturing.

Major employers in the subregion include Penumbra, Jackson Laboratory, Orca Bio, and research facilities belonging to the University of California, Davis at Aggie Park in Sacramento.

2024 Sector Employment



Note: The North subregion encompasses seven counties (El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba) and eight community colleges (American River, Cosumnes River, Folsom Lake, Lake Tahoe, Sacramento City, Sierra, Woodland, and Yuba). The North Far North region spans 22 counties and 15 community colleges, stretching from the Greater Sacramento area, north to California's border with Oregon, and east to Nevada.

Sector Highlights

6,356
Jobs in 2024

6,822
Projected Jobs in 2029

7%
Projected Job Growth,
2024-2029

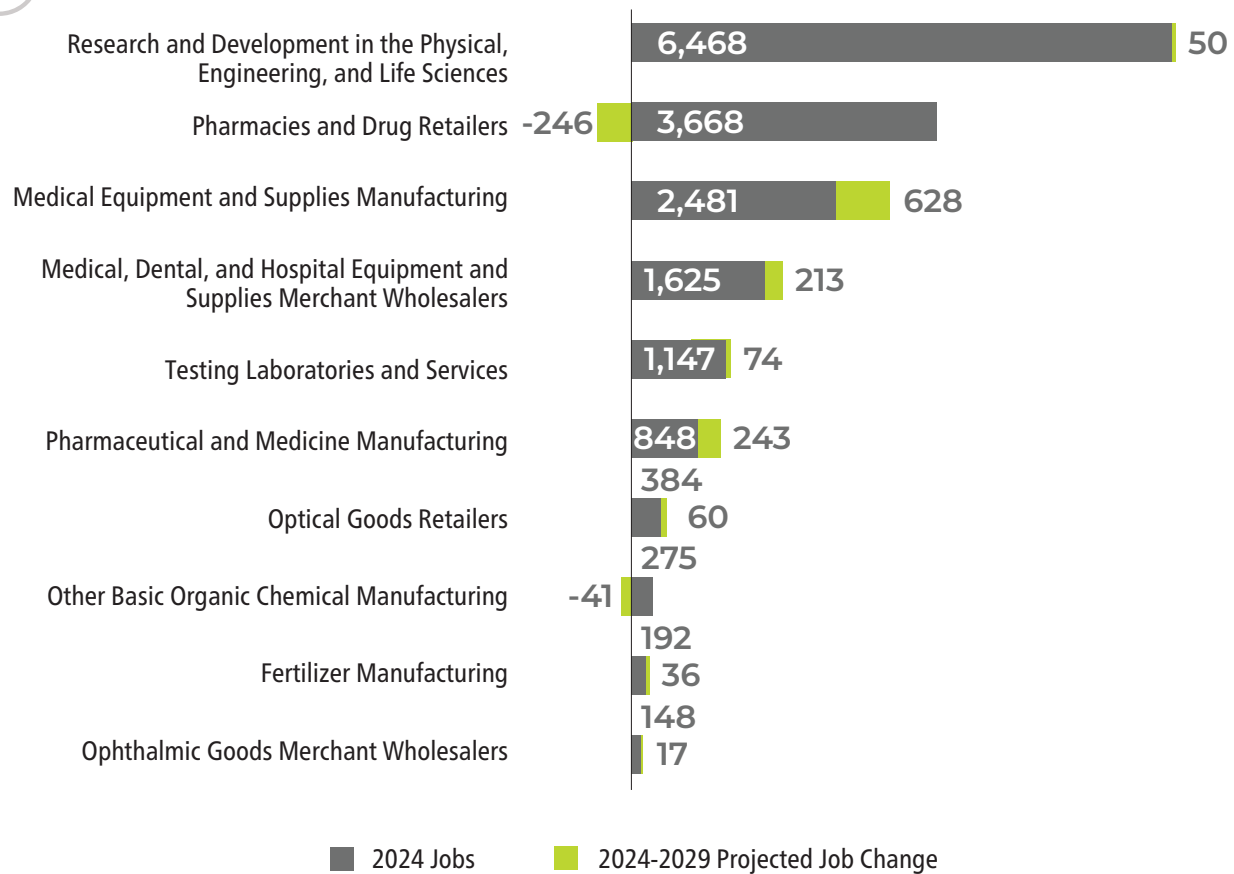
466
New Jobs by 2029

881
Businesses

0.5%
% of Greater Sacramento
Employment, 2024



Employment by Subsector



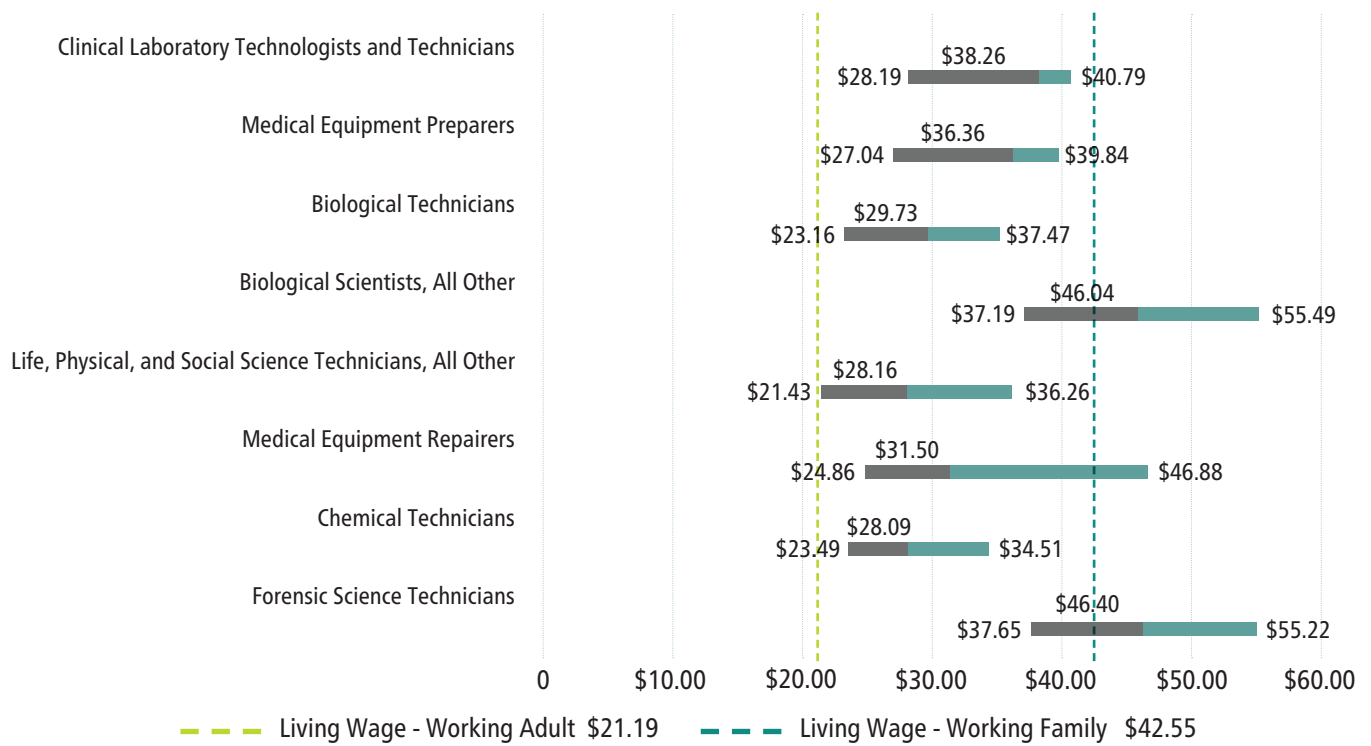
Note: The Life Sciences and Biotechnology sector includes 29 distinct 6-digit NAICS codes. Contact the NFN COE for a complete listing of NAICS codes by sector.

Top Occupations

Occupation	2024 Jobs	2024-2029 Projected Change	2024-2029 Average Annual Openings	Typical Entry-Level Education
Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians	2,165	9%	183	Bachelor's degree
Medical Equipment Preparers	779	7%	118	High school diploma or equivalent
Biological Technicians	777	4%	96	Bachelor's degree
Biological Scientists, All Other	767	3%	62	Bachelor's degree
Life, Physical, and Social Science Technicians, All Other	380	5%	53	Associate degree
Medical Equipment Repairers	482	9%	50	Associate degree
Chemical Technicians	241	7%	33	Associate degree
Forensic Science Technicians	170	17%	28	Bachelor's degree

Note: Jobs for the above occupations may not solely exist in this sector and may be found in other sectors that require related services. Projected change includes new job growth and replacements. Occupations with significant annual openings, active training programs in the subregion, wages at or close to the living wage, and training beyond a high school diploma but short of a bachelor's degree were prioritized for inclusion in the top middle-skill occupations.

Hourly Wages for Top Occupations



Note: The hourly wage ranges include the 25th percentile (entry-level), median, and 75th percentile (experienced) hourly earnings for workers employed in these occupations across the North (Greater Sacramento) subregion where the living wage in 2024 for a single working adult was \$21.19 and for a working family (defined as an adult and one infant) was \$42.55.



Job Posting Trends

Job posting trends examine all occupations assigned to the Life Sciences and Biotechnology sector, regardless of skill or education level in the Greater Sacramento subregion.

Unique Online Job Postings

1,518

(1% of Region's Postings)

Median Advertised Hourly Salary

\$34.83

(Regional Average \$30.77)

Median Posting Duration

25 days

(Regional Average 25 Days)

Posting Intensity

3:1

(Regional Average 2:1)

Note: Job postings count the number of online job postings advertised in the 7-county North (Greater Sacramento) subregion between November 1, 2024 and October 31, 2025. COE has identified 12 occupations aligned with the Life Science and Biotechnology sector, and those SOC codes were used to generate the list of aligned job postings. Contact the NFN COE for a complete listing of SOC codes by sector. Postings are limited to in-state employers and exclude staffing companies. Posting Intensity is the ratio of total job postings to unique (de-duplicated) job postings. Job posting results are weighted toward occupations with the most postings, influencing the frequency of results for employers, job titles, skills, work experience, and education.



Top Employers

Employers with the Most Postings

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. University of California, Davis | 6. AMPAC Fine Chemicals |
| 2. Sutter Health | 7. IDEXX Laboratories |
| 3. TestAmerica Laboratories/Eurofins Environment Testing | 8. Quest Diagnostics |
| 4. CommonSpirit Health | 9. Thermo Fisher Scientific |
| 5. State of California | 10. Adventist Health |

Most In-Demand Skills

Specialized Skills

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Laboratory Equipment
- Laboratory Experience
- Workflow Management

Soft Skills

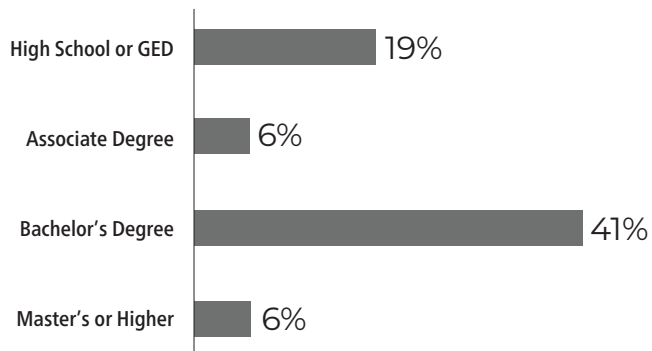
- Communication
- Research
- Management
- Detail Oriented
- Quality Control

Software and Technical Skills

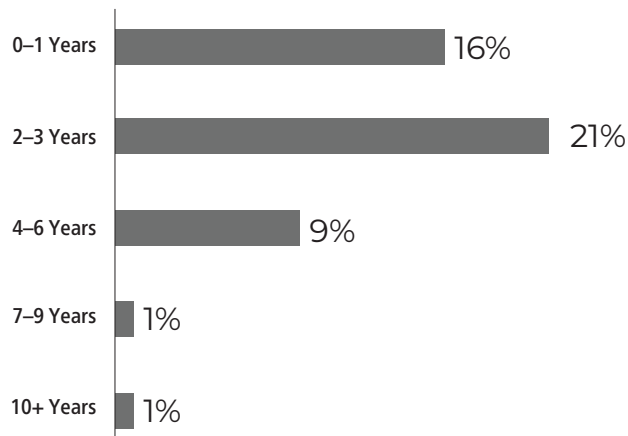
- Microsoft Office (Excel, Outlook, Word, PowerPoint)
- Spreadsheets
- Laboratory Information Management Systems
- ArcGIS
- Salesforce

Education & Experience in Job Postings

Employer-Preferred Education



Employer-Preferred Work Experience



Note: The percentages might not equal 100% because not all employers include education or work experience in their job postings.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE Training Programs



American River College	Cosumnes River College*	Folsom Lake College	Lake Tahoe College*	Sacramento City College	Sierra College*	Woodland Community College*	Yuba College*
Biotechnology		Pre-Clinical Laboratory Scientist Trainee		Chemical Technology			
Biomedical Equipment Technology							

* This/these college(s) do not offer programs related to the sector.

Note: Due to discrepancies in the California Community Colleges Curriculum Inventory (COCI) and how Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) codes are categorized by sector, this list may not include all related or currently available training programs.



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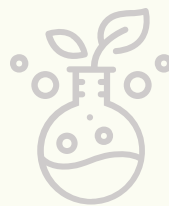
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Sources

- Lightcast 2025.4 - QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self-Employed
- Centers of Excellence for Labor Market Research Occupation Crosswalk
- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Data Mart
- California Community Colleges Curriculum Inventory (COCI)
- "2025 Life Science Economic Impact Report." Biocom California. 2025. https://www2.biocom.org/l/54352/2025-06-26/n6hmr/54352/1750947700ZrzgLiLo/2025_Biocom_California_EIR_Databook.pdf.

