

Three-tier career taxonomy

Taxonomy below is used by many universities to simplify alumni data classification ([Stayart et al. 2020](#), [Mathur et al. 2018](#)). *Note:* There are many different taxonomies being used across the US/Canada.

Tier 1: career sectors	Tier 2: career types	Tier 3: job functions
Academia Government For-profit Nonprofit Other	Primarily research Primarily teaching Science-related Not-related to science Further training or education	Administration Business development, consulting, and strategic alliances Clinical research management Clinical services Data science, analytics, and software engineering Entrepreneurship Faculty: nontenure track Faculty: tenured/tenure track Faculty: track unclear or not applicable Full-time teaching staff/instructor Group leader (research) Healthcare provider Intellectual property and law Part-time teaching staff/adjunct Postdoctoral research Regulatory affairs Research staff or technical director Sales and marketing Science education and outreach Science policy and government affairs Science writing and communication Technical support and product development Completing further education or training Other

TIER 3: JOB FUNCTION, in detail

Job Function	Definition	Job Title Examples
Administration	Administrative-intensive roles in which the individual is managing people, projects, and resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Manager • Scientific Reviewer • Assistant Dean of Faculty Affairs • Program Officer • Director of Research Admin/Grants
Business development, consulting, and strategic alliances	Role relevant to the development, execution, management, or analysis of a business. Role may include external relationship management, refinement of operational efficiency, or fee- based advisory services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Devlpmt Manager Consultant • VP of Medical Strategy • Venture Capitalist • CEO (non-founder) • Chief Medical Officer • Director of Research Center • Director of Medical Affairs
Clinical research management	Role that is responsible for the oversight, management, or design of clinical research trials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Trial Liaison • Director, Clinical Strategy • Director, Laboratory Animal Resources
Clinical services	Role that involves that administration of clinical services or research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genetics counselor • Clinical laboratory staff • Radiologist • Physician Assistant • Pharmacologist; Pharmacy Intern • Lab Director
Data science, analytics, and software engineering	Role that primarily involves programming, analytics, advanced statistics, data communication, and/or software development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computational Biologist • Analytics Data Scientist Consultant • Software Architect/Engineer • Genomic Data Analyst
Entrepreneurship	Founder or co-founder of their own business or enterprise, and employer of at least one other person.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owner • CEO and Founder
Group Leader or Principal Investigator	Role that involves leading a research team in any research environment. The individual is clearly responsible for funding and managing a research group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal Scientist • Director of Immunological Research • Senior Center Director • Research Scientist Lead • Professor
Healthcare provider	Role where the primary responsibility is providing healthcare.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physician/Resident/Nurse • Veterinarian • Dermatologist
Intellectual property and law	Role that involves the curation, management, implementation or protection of intelligence and creation, including patents, trademarks, copyrights, or trade secrets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patent agent • Patent attorney/Associate • Technology transfer specialist • Patent Examiner • Technology manager • Law Student

Job Function	Definition	Job Title Examples
Postdoctoral	Postdoctoral Fellow; Postdoctoral Research Associate; Postdoctoral Teaching Scholar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Postdoc • Research Postdoc
Regulatory affairs	Regulatory affairs professional; Quality control specialist; Compliance officer; Senior Safety Specialist; Regulatory Scientist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality control specialist • Regulatory Affairs Support Manager
Research staff or Technical director	Research Assistant/Associate Professor; Research Instructor; Staff Scientist I/II/III; Senior Scientist; Epidemiologist; Microbiologist; Core/Facilities Director; Research Associate; Biologist; Drug Discovery Scientist; ORISE or EIS Fellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry Staff Scientist
Sales and marketing	Associate Director of Clinical and Scientific Marketing; Account Representative; Sales Lead; Life Science Sales Specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Account Representative for Cell Manufacturer
Science education and outreach	K-12 Educator; High School Teacher; Museum Curriculum Developer; Outreach Program Administrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High School Teacher
Science policy and government affairs	Public/Government Affairs Staff; Science Policy Analyst; Public Health Analysts; AAAS Fellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AAAS Fellow at Nonprofit • NIH Program Officer
Science writing and communication	Science/Medical/Technical/ Grants/Regulatory Writer; Journalist; Editor; Publisher; Speaker/Presenter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science Editor • Medical Writer
Teaching faculty or staff	Assistant professor; associate professor; professor; Instructor; Lecturer in teaching- intensive institutions; adjunct; visiting faculty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology Instructor at 2-year College
Technical support and product development	Medical Science Liaison (MSL); Field Application Scientists; Product Development Scientist/Engineer; Technical Support Specialist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Science Liaison

Job Function	Definition	Job Title Examples
Other employment	Campaign Manager; Golf Instructor; Army Captain; Chef; Painter	
Completing further education	Student in an MD/PhD, dentistry, nursing, business, or other academic program.	MD/PhD Student
Unemployed or Seeking Employment	Full-time parent; Seeking Employment; Family caretaker	Full time parent
Deceased/retired		
Unknown		