WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN BIOCHEMISTRY?
1. Explore, unravel and understand the structure and function of all living things at the molecular level.
2. Use experimental and analytical techniques to examine living organisms and their function.
3. Sales and marketing of pharmaceuticals, research materials, and instrumentation.
4. Perform/develop tests to find harmful or disease-causing microorganisms in water, food, or the environment.
5. Develop new medical treatment and diagnostic products.

EXAMPLES OF FIELDS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR BIOCHEMISTRY MAJORS:
1. Academia
2. Medicine/Health Care
3. Science Journalism
4. Pharmaceutical Firms
5. Environmental Organizations
6. Forensic Science
7. Patent Law
8. Biomedical Research
9. Biotechnology Companies
10. Government Agencies

SAMPLE JOB TITLES IN THE BIOCHEMISTRY FIELD:
* Nutritionist
* Medical Technician
* Patent Scientist
* Molecular - Genetics Technologist
* Toxicologist
* Pharmaceutical Researcher
* Research Scientist
* Technician

SAMPLE JOB DESCRIPTIONS:
1. Biochemist - studies the chemical composition and behavior of living things. May study the effects of food, hormones, or drugs on various organisms.
3. Toxicologist – plan and carry out laboratory and field studies to identify, monitor and evaluate the impact of toxic materials and radiation on human and animal health, the environment, and the impact of future technology.
ENHANCING EMPLOYABILITY:

1. Get involved in the career development process early, *freshman year*.
2. Select minors/elective courses that will demonstrate interest/applicability to your career objective.
3. Get career related experience: internships, summer and/or part-time employment, volunteer.
4. Undergraduate research with a faculty member--start early.
5. Develop the following job search and self-marketing skills: resume and cover letter writing, create a portfolio and self-marketing brochure, researching employers, interviewing, networking, and employment searching.
6. Skills to develop: research and computer, interpretation or translation of collected data, persuasive writing, and presentation skills. Add additional course work in a closely related field such as biology, chemistry, physics, math, computer science, or environmental studies may be useful.

SAMPLE INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCES:
* Argonne National Laboratory
  - Interns will have an opportunity to publish their research and/or to be selected for an expense-paid trip to present their research at the annual undergrad conference of the National Council on Undergraduate Research.
* Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research
  - Students will have the opportunity to work on a specific project under the guidance of a research mentor in a laboratory setting. In addition to groundbreaking research in an innovative and collaborative environment, interns participate in many scientific and career development opportunities including an intern-run journal club, end of summer poster session, seminar series, social outings and career panel events.

PREPARING FOR THE JOB SEARCH MARKET
* Write an employer targeted resume and cover letter
* Learn job search strategies
* Borrow resources from the SUNY Potsdam’s Career Planning Library
* Develop networking cards.
* Join a career-related professional association or organization.
* Network with employers at Career/Job Fairs
* Prepare for an interview
* Design a portfolio and self-marketing brochure
* Visit SUNY Potsdam’s Career Planning Web Site at: www.potsdam.edu/career
* Seek advice from faculty

WHERE TO GET INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE:
1. CHEMISTRY DEPT., SUNY Potsdam, 208 Stowell Hall
   * Talk with Faculty  * Talk with Students  * Talk with Alumni

2. CAREER PLANNING OFFICE, SUNY Potsdam, 206 Sisson Hall
   * Individual Career Assistance  * Job Vacancies
   * Workshops/Seminars  * Summer Jobs
   * Employer Literature  * Reference file
   * Career Assessment Programs  * Career Planning Web Site
   * Career and Job Fairs  * Career Library
   * Networking Assistance  * A Major Affair
   * Alumni Mentor  * Free Handouts Available
WHAT IF I WANT TO GO TO GRADUATE SCHOOL?

RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT THE CAREER PLANNING OFFICE:

* Attend On-Campus Graduate School Fair
* Graduate school handout
* GRE, GMAT, MCAT, LSAT and MAT forms and bulletins
  (GRE computerized tests and graduate study books)
* Graduate books - listings of schools and programs
* Financial aid information about graduate school
* Peterson's Graduate Programs (G7F, G, H, I, J, K)
* Web Site: www.potsdam.edu/offices/career/graduate

RESOURCES FOR FINDING EMPLOYERS & CAREER INFORMATION:

RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT THE CAREER PLANNING OFFICE:

* Career Opportunities in Science (C45C)
* Opportunities in Biology (C7B)
* Careers in Veterinary Medicine (C6B)
* Nontraditional Careers for Chemists (C45M)
* Careers in Focus: Chemistry (C4HH)
* The Career Guide Employment Opportunities Directory (R8GG)
* Job Hunter’s Sourcebook (R26G)
* Dun’s Regional Directories (R8I, R8J, R8K)
* Job Opportunities in Health and Science (R17A)
* Health Professions Career and Education Directory (R17B)
* Peterson’s Job Opportunities in Engineering & Computer Science (R45D)
* Scientific and Technical Organizations & Agencies Directories (R45E, R45F)
* Plunkett’s Health Care Industry Almanac (R17D)
* Directory of American Research & Technology (R43B)
* Chemicals Yellow Pages (R45C)
* Career Planning Job Search Internet Links: www.potsdam.edu/offices/jobsearch/index.cfm
* Additional material found by using Career Planning Library Bibliography

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

* The American Institute of Biological Sciences
  730 11th St., NW
  Washington, DC  20001-4584
  (202) 628-1500
  www.aibs.org

* American Chemical Society
  P.O. Box 82229
  Columbus, OH 43202-9906
  (800) 333-9511
  www.acs.org

* American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
  9650 Rockville Pike
  Bethesda, MD  20814-3996
  (301) 530-7145
  www.asbmb.org

* American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
  120 New York Ave. NW
  Washington, DC  20005
  (202) 326-6400
  www.aaas.org

Designed and edited by Career Planning staff in collaboration with SUNY Potsdam Chemistry Department