Where do Biomedical Engineering majors go?

According to the 2015 Graduating Student Survey (with an 82.9% response rate for undergraduates in the department):

- 70.6% of graduates were employed or going to graduate school.
  - 47.1% were employed.
  - 23.5% had secure plans to attend grad school.

Examples of organizations that have hired Biomedical Engineering majors in recent years:

Graduate schools that Biomedical Engineering majors have attended in recent years:

- Brown University
- Boston University
- Case Western Reserve University
- Columbia University
- Harvard University
- Johns Hopkins University
- New York University
- Texas A&M University
- University of Pennsylvania

What can you do with a degree in Biomedical Engineering?

The department at Columbia prepares students for careers in the medical device industry, engineering consulting, biomechanics, biomedical imaging, and biotechnology; graduate studies in biomedical engineering or related fields; and attendance at medical or dental school. Biomedical engineers work in industry, academia, clinical medicine, and government in roles as varied as research to product design. Use CCE's Engineering Industry pages to learn more about ways to apply your degree.
What do employers want?

In addition to your technical skills, employers seek candidates with the following qualities:

1. Ability to work in a team structure
2. Ability to make decisions and solve problems
3. Ability to verbally communicate with persons inside and outside the organization
4. Ability to plan, organize, and prioritize work
5. Ability to obtain and process information
6. Ability to analyze quantitative data
7. Technical knowledge related to the job
8. Proficiency with computer software programs
9. Ability to create and/or edit written reports
10. Ability to sell or influence others

Source: National Association of Colleges and Employers, 2015 Job Outlook

Your major can demonstrate relevant coursework and knowledge to a prospective employer, but your studies aren’t the only aspect of your experience that employers are evaluating. They select people who they believe can do the job (have the right skills), want the job (have demonstrated an interest in the field), and are a personality fit for the team and organization.

What value do Biomedical Engineering majors bring?

The curriculum is designed to provide broad knowledge of the physical and engineering sciences and their application to the solution of biological and medical problems. The curriculum helps you to develop the ability to:

- Understand biology and physiology, and the capability to apply advanced mathematics (including differential equations and statistics), science, and engineering to solve the problems at the interface of engineering and biology
- Make measurements on and interpret data from living systems
- Address the problems associated with the interaction between living and non-living materials and systems
- Design and conduct experiments as well as analyze and interpret data
- Coordinate the activities of and function on multidisciplinary teams
- Communicate effectively
- Understand the impact of engineering solutions in a global and societal context

What if I’m an International Student?

For international students at Columbia under student visas, selecting your major can play a significant role if you plan to work in the US after completion of your degree. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) students can receive a 24-month extension of optional practical training after the initial period of authorized post-completion OPT. Students with questions about this should visit the International Student & Scholars Office (ISSO), view ISSO’s Work Opportunities for Students in F-1 Status site (columbia.edu/cu/isko/visa/F-1/index.html) and view CCE’s International Students webpage at careereducation.columbia.edu/students/International-Students.