

Natural Sciences Managers

SOC: 11-9121 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$161,180

Median Salary

104,300

Employment

+4.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Bachelor's degree

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 18.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

8.0/10 - Excellent work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	4.2/10	Investigative	6.8/10
Artistic	4.4/10	Social	7.8/10
Enterprising	8.6/10	Conventional	7.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Communication skills, Critical-thinking skills, Interpersonal skills, Leadership skills, Problem-solving skills, Time-management skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Natural Sciences Managers plan, direct, and coordinate **scientific research and operations in fields such as biology, chemistry, physics, and environmental science**. They oversee research projects, manage laboratory or field teams, and ensure compliance with safety and regulatory standards. Their work is critical in research, development, and innovation.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy leadership, scientific research, and managing complex projects.

What Do Natural Sciences Managers Do?

These professionals manage scientific investigations, direct research teams, and oversee laboratory or field operations to achieve research objectives.

Common responsibilities include:

- Planning, directing, and coordinating research projects and programs
- Managing budgets, resources, and laboratory or field staff
- Ensuring compliance with safety, ethical, and regulatory guidelines
- Evaluating research methods, data, and results
- Collaborating with scientists, engineers, and other professionals
- Reporting findings and presenting results to stakeholders
- Developing policies, procedures, and long-term research strategies

Key Areas of Natural Sciences Management

Natural sciences managers may focus on specific disciplines or operational functions:

- Research and Development Management: Overseeing scientific studies and innovation
- Laboratory and Field Operations: Supervising staff, equipment, and experiments
- Compliance and Safety: Maintaining adherence to regulations and safety standards
- Budget and Resource Allocation: Managing funding, grants, and resources
- Strategic Planning and Policy: Developing research priorities and organizational strategies

Skills and Abilities Needed

Natural sciences managers combine scientific expertise, leadership, and analytical skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires advanced education and research experience:

- Bachelor's Degree (minimum): Natural sciences, biology, chemistry, physics, or related field
- Master's or Doctoral Degree (common): For advanced research management or specialized fields
- Research or Laboratory Experience: Hands-on experience in scientific investigations
- Professional Development: Training in management, leadership, and research administration
- Continuous Learning: Staying current with scientific advancements, safety standards, and management practices

Where Do Natural Sciences Managers Work?

They are employed in organizations conducting research, development, or scientific analysis:

- Research Laboratories and Development Firms
- Universities and Academic Institutions
- Government Research Agencies
- Pharmaceutical, Biotechnology, and Environmental Companies

- Consulting and Scientific Services

Work environments include offices, laboratories, field sites, and research facilities.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires balancing scientific expertise with management skills. Managers must coordinate research projects, oversee staff, and ensure compliance while achieving organizational goals.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy scientific research and leadership
- Are analytical, detail-oriented, and organized
- Can manage projects, teams, and budgets
- Have strong communication and problem-solving skills
- Want a career overseeing scientific investigations and operations

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in natural sciences, research methods, and management
- Gain experience through laboratory work, research projects, or internships
- Develop leadership, project management, and communication skills
- Stay informed on scientific advancements and regulatory standards
- Explore advanced degrees or certifications in scientific management

Natural sciences managers lead research and development efforts, ensuring that scientific projects are conducted efficiently, safely, and effectively while advancing knowledge and innovation.

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Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/management/natural-sciences-managers.htm>