

## Biomedical Photographer

### ■ Job Description

Biomedical photographers capture images to facilitate the recording and disseminating of medical and biological knowledge. The photographer makes visual records of biological and medical events, and may photograph physical changes in a patient, microscopic slides of tissue, or surgical procedures. The biomedical photographer's skills cover nearly every aspect of photography, and skills in areas unique to biological photography such as vital photomicrography and surgical motion pictures. The photographer must also have a basic understanding of biological sciences. Biomedical photographers sometimes work with biomedical illustrators.

### ■ Job Settings

Larger hospitals, universities, health science schools (such as schools of medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine), pharmaceutical companies, research institutes, and medical publishers. Photographers may also work on a free-lance basis.

### ■ Projected Need

In recent years there has been a slight decline in the demand for medical photographers. Cost cutting measures at institutions have led to increased purchases of stock photography rather than hiring photographers to take original photos. Also, some physicians take their own pictures. At the same time, the growing field of scientific information ensures a continued need for medical photographers. There will be keen competition for people wanting to enter this relatively small field.

### ■ Salaries

Entry-level salary is around \$30,000 per year. With experience biomedical photographers earn annual wages ranging from \$35,000 to \$45,000. Professionals with twenty to twenty-five years of experience and a graduate degree can earn more than \$60,000 per year.

### ■ Related Careers

Biomedical illustration, biomedical design, graphic arts, biomedical communications, computer graphics

### ■ Differences in Training

The Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York is the only school in the United States that grants a bachelor's degree in Biomedical Photographic Communications.

### ■ Related Educational Programs

The programs of study listed below are the recommended areas of study to pursue for this occupation. Clicking on these will lead to files that show in-state and national schools that offer these programs.

*The following link(s) will take you to CIS for more information. CIS requires an ID and password that can be obtained at <http://cis.ilworkinfo.com/loginhelp/login.asp>*  
[Photographic, Film, and Video Technology](#)  
[Film, Video, and Photographic Arts](#)

### ■ Credentials

A Registered Biological Photographer (RBP) designation is offered by the Bio Communications Association's Board of Registry and requires successful completion of a 3-part exam.

### ■ Resources

BioCommunications Association  
220 Southwind Lane  
Hillsborough, NC 27278  
Phone: 919.245.0906  
E-mail: [bcaoffice@aol.com](mailto:bcaoffice@aol.com)  
<http://www.bca.org>

Health and Science Communications Association  
39 Wedgewood Drive, Suite A  
Jewett City, CT 06351  
Phone: 860.376.5915  
E-mail: [hesca@hesca.org](mailto:hesca@hesca.org)  
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