

What can you do with a degree in neuroscience?

Research and Education

- Research/Teaching: overall options to consider
 - Basic/Clinical
 - Academic/Biotech/Pharma (private sector) / NIH (public sector)
 - Levels of analysis: molecular through cognitive
 - System: theory and modeling, experimental animal, clinical, social
 - Focus: development, function, disease
- Professor, Research lab head (principal investigator), running a lab of scientist, post-docs, technicians and students (teach at undergraduate/graduate level); Medical school faculty (less teaching, more fundraising)
- Other research positions: research scientist, technician, lab manager, etc. [Note: research may be purely clinical working with patients, etc]
- Instructor, lecturer, or guest lecturer (may also have a research position)
- Dean (may also teach and do research)
- Run an academic program (advisor, coordinator, etc)
- High school, junior high, elementary science teacher
- Run a (neuro)science program at a youth education center (city-wide program for public schools, create a program for private schools, summer programs, etc)
- Teach Neuroscience to medical students
- Teach public about Neuroscience (non-profit organization, Allen Brain Institute, etc)
- Teach Neuroscience to adults (continuing education programs, run seminars for companies who want employees to understand brain/health better, train hospital employees about the brain)
- Work to improve funding for science education
- Teach Neuroscience abroad (developing nation or other)

Health-Related Careers

- Clinical psychologist (e.g., specialize in behavioral neuroscience)
 - Physician (MD or DO)-neurology, neurosurgery, psychiatry, optometry...
 - MD-PhD (clinical practice and research)
 - Nurse (for example, in neuro ward, neuro-oncology, pediatric neurology, etc);
Nurse practitioner or physician's assistant
 - Speech & language therapist (especially important for neurological patients with damage to left hemisphere, or children with neurodevelopmental disorders)
 - Occupational therapist for adults (especially important following stroke, loss of basic function to take care of ones self, etc)
 - Physical therapist for children (teach how to compensate/alleviate developmental disorders, e.g SPD, autism, ADD, motor disorders, etc)
 - Audiologist (assess hearing function in children, babies, adults)
 - Nutritionist (a neuro background give you a unique perspective on how nutrient and metabolism affect the nervous system)
 - Social worker (a neuro background would help you to understand the specific issues affecting neurological patients upon re-entering their environment following hospitalizations)
 - Clinical research- could work at a number of levels, from technician to research scientist
 - Pharmacist (specialize in how drugs mimic neurotransmitter in the brain)
 - MRI technician, histopathologist, public health, biostatistician, epidemiologist, medical forensics, develop neuroprosthetics
 - Technician for other neurological procedures e.g. deep brain stimulation; genetic counseling
 - Radiation physicist (calculates precisely how radiation should be used to target tumors)
 - Administrator or coordinator (neurology ward or team or neurology residents)
 - Run a public service project in an underserved area with limited medical care
 - Veterinarian
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Global Health

- Run a clinical research project in another country (or work for one)
 - Run a public service project in a developing nation (or work for one)
 - Work for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)- specialize in neurological disease
 - Global health reporting and/or data collection- focus on neurological health
 - Careers at UN, NGOs, MSF, OXFAM, USAID, World Bank
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Business & Law

- Neuroeconomist or economics consultant
 - Chief-Scientific Officer (CSO), Executive Director or other high-level at private company, non-profit foundation, government institution, or academic program
 - Marketing or advertising consultant (What is going on in the brain during decision making?)
 - Equity consultant, analyst or broker for an equity firm, venture capitalist or hedge fund (Is a biotech or pharmaceutical company a good investment?)
 - Spokesperson for a neuro-company; education public on research going on within the company
 - Patent lawyer (e.g., draft a patent application to secure intellectual property rights for a neurobiological technique or product developed at Princeton)
 - Lawyer (specialize in neurodegenerative disease cases, child development, etc)
 - Consultant
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Government & Policy

- Work for a governmental office (CDC, NIH, FDA, etc) that oversees public policy toward neurological disease, the aging brain, etc
- Capitol Hill Staffer (work in congressional office, science/health-related initiatives)

- Congressional advisor (advise on policy for the care of children with neurodevelopmental disease, intellectual disabilities, autism, epilepsy, etc)
 - Advise on policy for the care of persons with psychiatric problems, etc
 - Grants administrator and/or reviewer (Program manager- NSF, NIH)
 - Global Health Organizations
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Writing & Publishing

- Scientific journal editor (Neuron, Cell, Nature, Science, Nature Neuroscience, etc)
 - Scientific journalist (correspondent or columnist)
 - Science book publishing (writing, editing, recruitment of writers)
 - Creative writing about the brain – for children or adults
 - Write biographies of famous neuroscientists
 - Web design and writing for the NIH or other neuroscience organizations
 - Science education blogger
 - Produce science education material web/print (Scholastic, Nature Education, etc)
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Consulting (advising with a neuro background)

- Management consulting (specialize in biotech, pharma or healthcare companies); private consulting firm
 - Lobbyist (for foundations, biotech, etc)
 - Library (medical or other)
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Non-profit Research or Foundations

- Grants specialist –evaluate research portfolio, set funding priorities
- Patient outreach

- Discovery specialist for a research foundation (coordinate academic and biotech research to cure a specific disease)
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Creative Sector

- Graphic designer for any company/ organization on this list
 - Design web-based scientific education material (NIH, Scitable, University Science Centers, Startup companies)
 - Science consultant for the media (TV, movies, books, etc)
 - Artist specializing in how the brain perceives things
 - Architect who specializes in how the brain perceives spaces, color, texture, emotion, etc
 - Toy designer- use knowledge to make brain developing toys
 - Musician/instructor (understanding hearing and the brain and its role in composition, performance)
 - Write neurosci-fi screenplays
 - Web design, art, and/or writing for any neuroscience organization
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Quant fields

- Investing, real estate, etc,
 - Big data (e.g., Google, Calico)
 - Artificial intelligence, brain-machine interfaces
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---With thanks to Boston University's Neuroscience's "[Life after College](#)" page for many of these ideas--