



Life Sciences and Biotechnology



Far North
Career & Training Pathways Profile

2026

Five-Year Outlook

3% sector growth

150+ annual job openings

0.4% of the Far North's jobs



POWERED BY



Introduction

Due to the presence of a skilled workforce, academic institutions that help drive innovation, and incentives for research, California leads the nation in terms of employment and venture capital investments in the Life Sciences and Biotechnology sector.

This sector involves research and development involving biological processes to develop a range of scientific tools and products, such as biopharmaceuticals, medical devices, and advancements in sustainability.

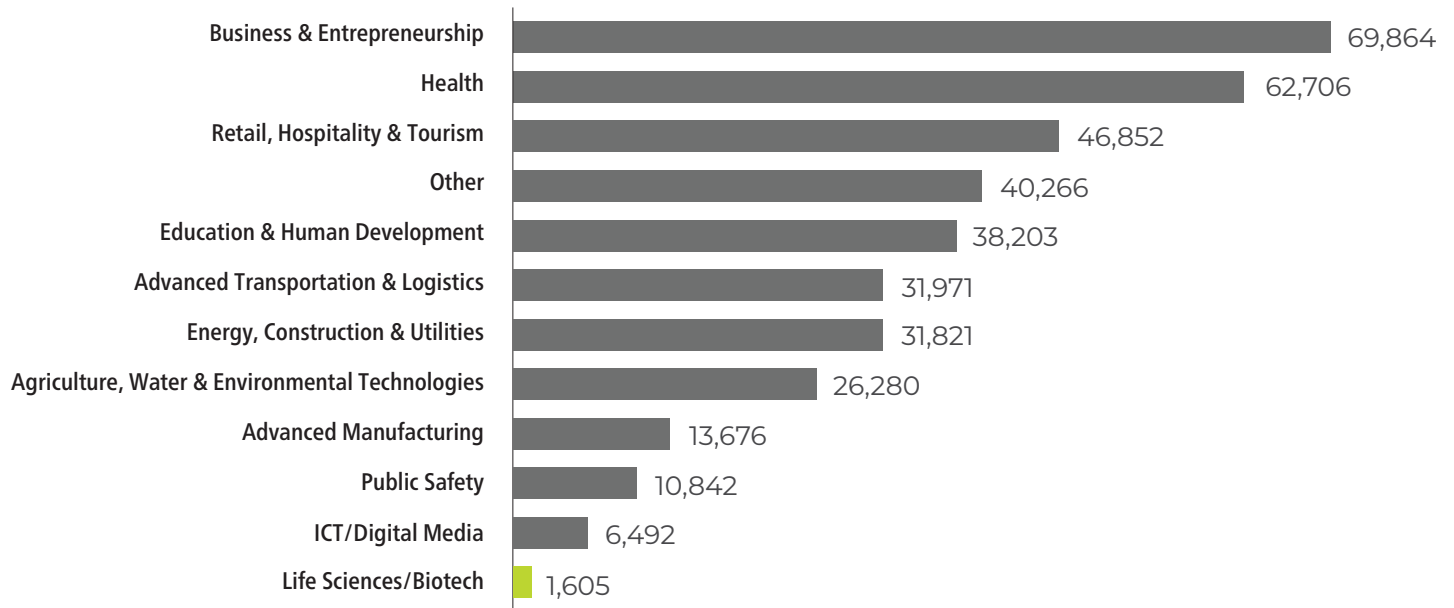
The North Far North region plays an important role in the sector, with 650 average annual job openings concentrated in the Greater Sacramento area. In the Far North, Butte County and Humboldt County rank 12th and 16th, respectively, in direct employment of life science-related careers in California, according to Biocom California's "2025 Life Science Economic Impact Report."

Due to the nature of its production processes, this sector overlaps with the Advanced Manufacturing sector. In 2024, over 31% of life science jobs in California were in manufacturing.



Examples of Far North employers are Paradigm Clinical Research in Redding, Enloe Medical Center in Chico, and Valley Clinical Laboratory in Chico.

2024 Sector Employment



Note: The Far North subregion encompasses 15 counties (Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity) and seven community colleges (Butte, Feather River, Lassen, Mendocino, Redwoods, Shasta, and Siskiyou). The North Far North region spans 22 counties and 15 community colleges, stretching from the Greater Sacramento area, north to California's border with Oregon, and east to Nevada.

Sector Highlights

1,605
Jobs in 2024

1,658
Projected Jobs in 2029

3%
Projected Job Growth,
2024-2029

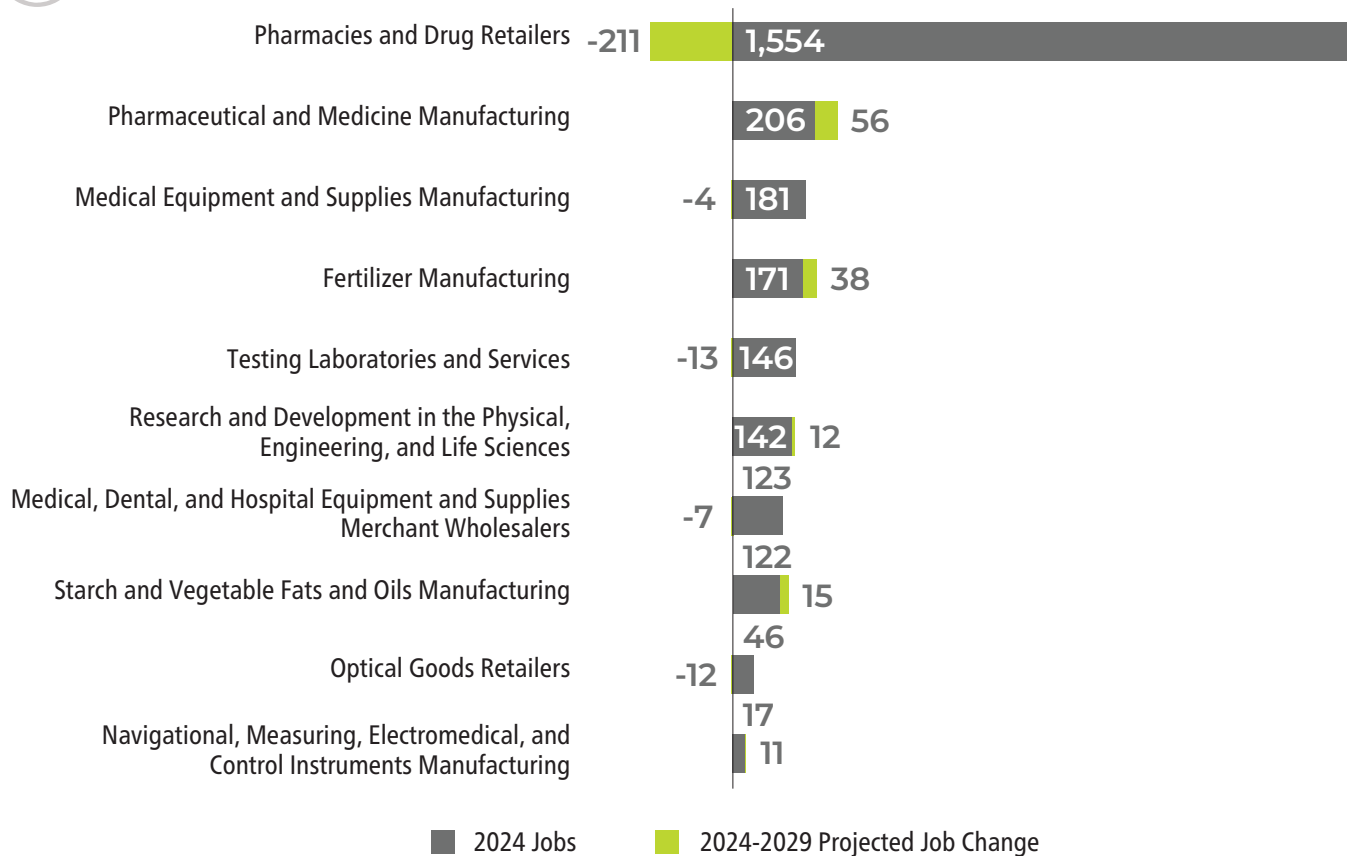
53
New Jobs by 2029

283
Businesses

0.4%
% of Far North
Employment, 2024



Employment by Subsector



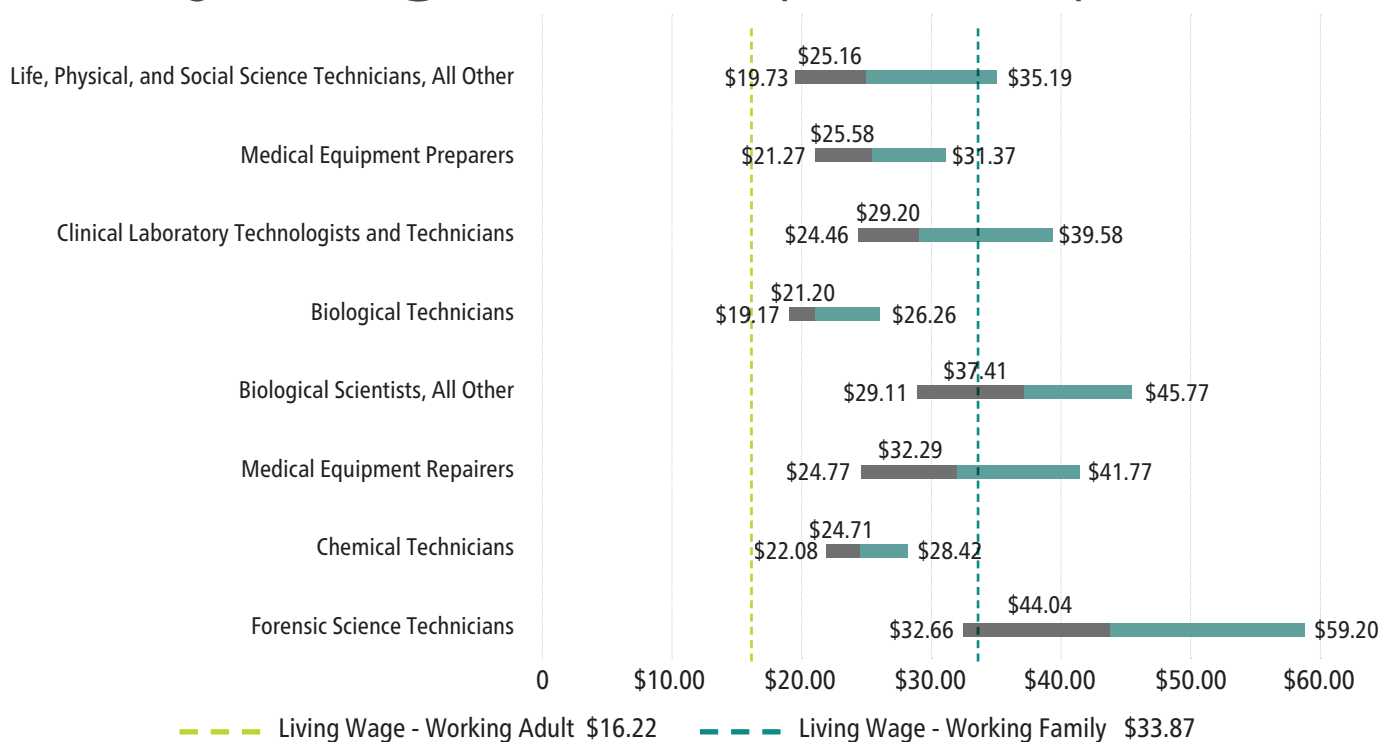
Note: The Life Sciences and Biotechnology sector includes 29 distinct 6-digit NAICS codes. Contact the NFN COE for a complete listing of NAICS codes by sector.

Top Occupations

Occupation	2024 Jobs	2024-2029 Projected Change	2024-2029 Average Annual Openings	Typical Entry-Level Education
Life, Physical, and Social Science Technicians, All Other	395	1%	51	Associate degree
Medical Equipment Preparers	230	4%	32	High school diploma or equivalent
Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians	375	5%	28	Bachelor's degree
Biological Technicians	176	2%	21	Bachelor's degree
Biological Scientists, All Other	249	0%	20	Bachelor's degree
Medical Equipment Repairers	57	10%	6	Associate degree
Chemical Technicians	39	7%	5	Associate degree
Forensic Science Technicians	11	15%	2	Bachelor's degree

Note: Jobs for the above occupations may not solely exist in this sector and may be found in other sectors that require related services. Projected change includes new job growth and replacements. Occupations with significant annual openings, active training programs in the subregion, wages at or close to the living wage, and training beyond a high school diploma but short of a bachelor's degree were prioritized for inclusion in the top middle-skill occupations.

Hourly Wages for Top Occupations



Note: The hourly wage ranges include the 25th percentile (entry-level), median, and 75th percentile (experienced) hourly earnings for workers employed in these occupations across the Far North subregion where the living wage in 2024 for a single working adult was \$16.22 and for a working family (defined as an adult and one infant) was \$33.87.



Job Posting Trends

Job posting trends examine all occupations assigned to the Life Sciences and Biotechnology sector, regardless of skill or education level in the Far North subregion.

Unique Online Job Postings

389

(1% of Region's Postings)

Median Advertised Hourly Salary

\$32.62

(Regional Average \$29.05)

Median Posting Duration

21 days

(Regional Average 23 Days)

Posting Intensity

2:1

(Regional Average 2:1)

Note: Job postings count the number of online job postings advertised in the 15-county Far North subregion between November 1, 2024 and October 31, 2025. COE has identified 12 occupations aligned with the Life Sciences and Biotechnology sector, and those SOC codes were used to generate the list of aligned job postings. Contact the NFN COE for a complete listing of SOC codes by sector. Postings are limited to in-state employers and exclude staffing companies. Posting Intensity is the ratio of total job postings to unique (de-duplicated) job postings. Job posting results are weighted toward occupations with the most postings, influencing the frequency of results for employers, job titles, skills, work experience, and education.



Top Employers

Employers with the Most Postings

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Adventist Health | 6. CommonSpirit Health |
| 2. Oroville Hospital | 7. Sanford Health |
| 3. Providence Medical Foundation | 8. Enloe Medical Center |
| 4. Norman Regional Hospital | 9. State of California |
| 5. Grifols | 10. United States Forest Service |

Most In-Demand Skills

Specialized Skills

- Biology
- Medical Laboratory
- Clinical Laboratory Science
- Chemistry
- Phlebotomy

Soft Skills

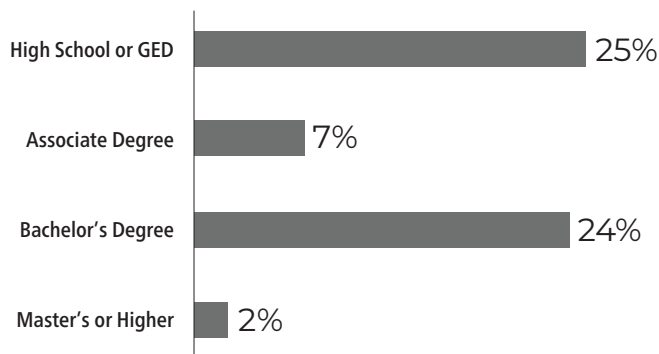
- Communication
- Quality Control
- Management
- Confidentiality
- Operations

Software and Technical Skills

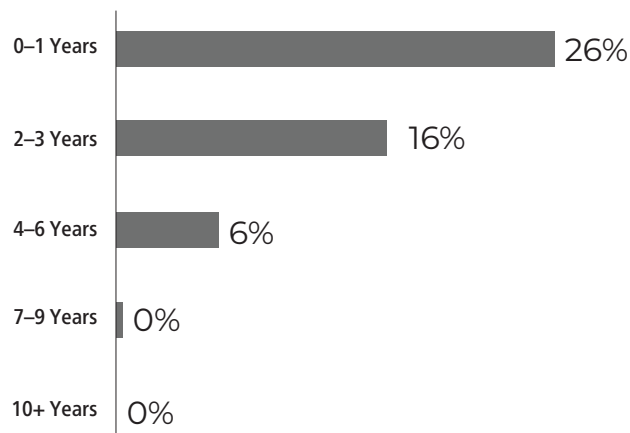
- Microsoft Office (Excel, Outlook, Word, PowerPoint)
- ArcGIS
- Spreadsheets
- Laboratory Information Management Systems
- Epic EMR

Education & Experience in Job Postings

Employer-Preferred Education



Employer-Preferred Work Experience



The percentages might not equal 100% because not all employers include education or work experience in their job postings.



Community College Training Programs

As of January 2026, no active career education (CE) programs aligned with occupations in the Life Sciences and Biotechnology sector are listed by the Far North subregion's seven community colleges (Butte, Feather River, Lassen, Mendocino, Redwoods, Shasta, and Siskiyou).



This publication was supported through Strong Workforce Program (SWP) funding from the North Far North Regional Consortium and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Economic and Workforce Development Grant. SWP is an initiative designed to expand career education (CE) programs offered by the California Community Colleges to supply a skilled workforce to California's employers. The North Far North Regional Consortium (NFNRC) is charged with coordinating the planning and implementation of CE programs among community colleges within the 22-county North Far North region, which includes the North (Greater Sacramento) and Far North subregions. The NFNRC has 12 sectors, which are listed in the chart on page 1. This sector profile summarizes key data about current and projected workforce demand, hourly wages, job postings, and community college programs to support the goals of SWP.



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Sources

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- Centers of Excellence for Labor Market Research Occupation Crosswalk
- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Data Mart
- California Community Colleges Curriculum Inventory (COCI)
- "2025 Life Science Economic Impact Report." Biocom California. 2025. https://www2.biocom.org/l/54352/2025-06-26/n6hmr/54352/1750947700ZrzgLiLo/2025_Biocom_California_EIR_Databook.pdf.

