OREGON Life Sciences

BioStart Program Guide

Two-Week Industry Readiness Training

BioStart is a grant-funded, two-week immersive program built to make early-career candidates more competitive for entry-level jobs with Oregon's life science companies. You'll learn how regulated workplaces operate, build an industry-ready resume, and meet directly with employers hiring across manufacturing, lab, and quality roles.

IMPORTANT DATES

APPLY BY	NOTIFICATIONS	PROGRAM DATES
May 20, 2026	**June 1, 2026**	**June 8 to 19, 2026**

Format: Full days of live virtual and self-paced online modules, Apply at **oregonlifesciences.org/biostart**

HOW IT WORKS

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Apply. Complete the application at oregonlifesciences.org by May 20. Takes 20 to 30 minutes.

2. Skills check. A short online assessment of basic reading, math, and attention to detail. About 20 minutes.

3. Review. We review applications on a rolling basis. Earlier is better.

4. Interview. If you advance, we'll set up a brief interview to discuss the program and confirm fit.

5. Get started. Notifications go out by June 1. Accepted participants get a free seat plus a $500 weekly stipend.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

• **Some related background.** Relevant experience could include STEM coursework, certifications, CTE programs, vocational training, or hands-on work in technical, manufacturing, industrial, or logistics environments

.• **Follow-through.** Evidence you stick with what you start: a job, a program, caregiving, military, or volunteer commitment.

• **Transferable skills.** Procedural work, attention to detail, documentation, teamwork, working under pressure. These skills come from all kinds of jobs: food service, retail, warehouse, healthcare support, caregiving, military, hospitality, trades, customer service, security, and more.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

What You'll Learn

BioStart is a fast-paced two weeks that gives you the grounding to walk into entry-level life sciences roles with confidence and a competitive edge. The curriculum blends industry foundations with the soft skills employers say make the biggest difference in who gets hired and who gets promoted.

Industry foundations. You'll get a real look at how a life sciences company works, from startup to operating organization. We cover production operations fundamentals, the science foundations that anchor the work, and an "anatomy" view of the industry so you understand where your role fits.

The regulated environment. You'll learn GMP foundations, how to work by written procedures (SOPs), Good Documentation Practices, and data integrity principles. You'll also complete OSHA 10 safety training and build a quality mindset around risk awareness, root cause analysis, and corrective action.

Foundational knowledge. Related scientific principles, lab math essentials, analytical methods, digital and technology skills, and the workplace habits that production teams depend on.

Oregon Essential Employability Skills. Built into the program is Oregon's 10-skill framework that defines what employers expect beyond technical ability: adaptability, analysis and solution mindset, collaboration, communication, digital literacy, empathy, entrepreneurial mindset, resilience, self-awareness, and social diversity awareness.

CAREER PATHS

Roles This Program Prepares You For

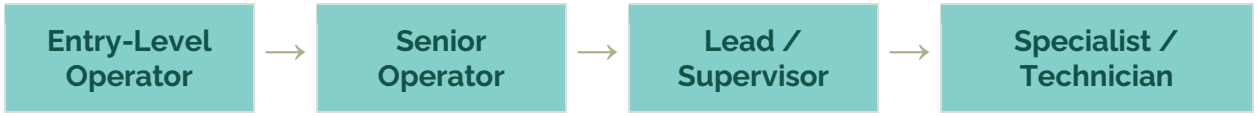
These are the entry-level roles that consistently open up at Oregon's pharma, medical device, and biotech manufacturers for candidates with a high school diploma, certificate, or Associate's degree. (A Bachelor's is sometimes preferred but rarely required.)

BioStart's curriculum is geared toward preparing you for positions like these.

- **Manufacturing/Production Technician —** operates equipment, executes batch records, and gowns into cleanrooms. The biggest entry point.
- **Quality Control (QC) Technician/Associate —** runs routine assays, environmental monitoring, sampling, and instrument checks.
- **Quality Assurance (QA) Technician/Document Reviewer —** reviews batch records, logs deviations, and supports audits. A common upward step from production.
- **Laboratory Technician/Lab Assistant —** media prep, glasswash, sample logging, and basic assays in R&D or process development labs.
- **Materials Handler/GMP Warehouse Associate —** receives, stores, kits, and issues raw materials under GMP. Underrated entry point with strong internal mobility.
- **Packaging/Labeling Technician —** runs packaging lines for finished drug or device product. Often the easiest foot in the door at fill/finish sites.

A Way In, with Room to Grow

These roles are a real way in. From there, operators commonly move up through senior, lead, and specialist levels.



Sample progression in biomanufacturing

Worth knowing: *moving past the lead level usually takes additional education or certifications. The good news is that most Oregon life sciences employers offer tuition assistance or pay outright for the coursework that gets you there. Lateral moves into QA, validation, supply chain, or training are also common after 2 to 4 years.*

BEFORE YOU APPLY

A Realistic Picture of the Work

Whether you're operating equipment on a production line, sampling in a QC lab, handling materials in a GMP warehouse, or maintaining facilities, life science jobs share some real demands. Here's what to expect on the job before you apply.

Highly regulated

Life sciences operates under cGMP, ISO, and FDA standards. You'll execute batch records and SOPs exactly as written, follow Good Documentation Practices, and work in a culture where data integrity matters. Improvising is not part of the job.

Shift work is common

Many production roles run 24/7. That can mean day, evening, or overnight shifts. 8, 10, or 12-hour rotations. Weekends and holidays. Shift work pays well and many people prefer it, but it's a real lifestyle change worth thinking through.

PPE is part of the job

PPE is required in most life science workplaces: lab coats, safety glasses, gloves, and sometimes full cleanroom or aseptic gowning. Some areas require you to be clean-shaven or to remove jewelry. PPE protects both you and the products you make.

Hands-on, physical work

Most entry-level roles involve standing for long periods, operating equipment (spray dryers, tablet presses, fill lines, lab instruments), lifting and moving materials, and repetitive tasks. The work isn't extreme, but it asks something of you.

NOW THE GOOD PART

Why People Choose This Industry

$20 to $28 per hour

Entry-level production and lab roles in Oregon, plus shift differentials, overtime, health insurance, retirement, and PTO from day one.

Job stability

Life sciences is one of Oregon's growing industries. Companies hire for the long term, and the skills you build are in demand across the state and the country.

Work that matters

You're making products that help people get better, manage chronic conditions, or stay healthy. A lot of people stay in this industry because they feel good about what they do.

Apply by May 20 at oregonlifesciences.org

Program runs June 8 to 19, 2026 • Live virtual, full days

Questions? biostart@oregonlifesciences.org

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