INCAP Student journey starting in 8th grade

LIFE SCIENCES

Life Sciences Operator

3-YEAR APPRENTICESHIP

Life Sciences Operators work in regulated environments with strict safety and quality standards to manufacture medicines, vaccines, and treatments that can help save lives.

CAREER EXPLORATION AND APPLICATION PROCESS

(GRADES 8-10)

During **8th and 9th grade**, students explore career options by working with a career advisor, attending career fairs, visiting employers, and participating in other career exploration opportunities.

In the **9th grade**, students interested in the INCAP Life Sciences Operator apprenticeship should tell their school counselor so they can update their four-year plan to meet the requirements.

In **10th grade**, students interested in the Life Sciences Operator apprenticeship will **apply and interview** with employers. Those selected will sign agreements to begin training in high school and then take on full-time employment after high school graduation.*

** Students must be 18 or older by high school graduation to participate.*

FIRST AND SECOND YEARS OF APPRENTICESHIP

(GRADES 11-12)

Beginning in **11th grade**, students complete biotechnology coursework while building the foundational knowledge and skills needed in a regulated life sciences manufacturing environment. This includes areas such as Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), safety, documentation, quality, gowning, teamwork, professionalism, and attention to detail.

During **12th grade**, students continue biotechnology coursework. By graduation, students earn Ivy Tech's 18-credit Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing Certificate, an industry-recognized Credential of Value.

Throughout both years, students earn a total of 150 work-based learning hours by participating in employer engagement and approved learning experiences, including simulations and industry-based challenges, through their high school or CTE Center. Students receive a stipend for completing eligible work-based learning and apprenticeship activities.

THIRD YEAR OF APPRENTICESHIP

(AFTER HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION)

Upon graduation, students begin the employer-based portion of their apprenticeship, working full-time with their employer or a designated training provider. Apprentices apply learnings from school to authentic production processes, equipment, quality systems, documentation, safety, and GMP requirements. While pay varies by employer and region, apprentices typically earn $16-20/hour.

By Sept. 30* following graduation, students will complete the 650 hours of work-based learning required for the **Employment Honors Plus diploma seal**, which will be awarded retroactively. Beginning in October, apprentices continue full-time employment and the advanced technical training needed to demonstrate the competencies required of a Life Sciences Operator.

When students complete the apprenticeship the following May, they receive an INCAP credential recognized by Indiana life sciences employers as an indicator of experience.

** The 650 hours of work-based learning must be completed by Sept. 30 following graduation.*

STUDENTS HAVE OPTIONS FOR WHAT'S NEXT

Students completing a Life Sciences Operator apprenticeship have the education and training needed to take their next step.

WORKFORCE

By the end of the apprenticeship, students are prepared for potential full-time employment with their employer, building on the experience they gained working in a regulated environment. Potential roles include Manufacturing Operator, Production Operator, Manufacturing Technician, and Process Operator, among others.

INCAP CAREER PROGRAM

In the future, students will be able to complete additional work-based learning in life sciences through the INCAP Career Program and earn a professional degree equivalent to an academic degree.

COLLEGE

Students can head to college and likely finish a related degree faster because of the 18-credit Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing Certificate they earned at Ivy Tech as part of the apprenticeship. Those credits count toward Ivy Tech's Associate of Science or Associate of Applied Science degree.

Learn by doing — and set yourself up for success.