

Appendix 3 Cosmetic scientists¹

There are literally thousands of scientists working in the cosmetic industry and the number of jobs continues to grow. This is an industry that continues to sell products even in uncertain economic times. There are various types of companies that employ cosmetic scientists and chemists. These include finished goods manufacturers, contract manufactures, raw material suppliers, and testing laboratories. The most common degree required from cosmetic scientists is a bachelor degree in Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Biology, and Microbiology, less in Physics; bigger companies like Procter & Gamble or L'Oreal tend to favour students who have a master or PhD degrees in cosmetic science.

If one is looking to work as a scientist in the cosmetic industry then there are a wide variety of jobs to choose from:

a. **Cosmetic Formulator** – If one likes inventing and creating (e.g. the newest lipstick formula, or a biodegradable nail polish), the formulator is probably the best choice. Most of these jobs are with Finished Goods & Contract manufacturers². A few raw material suppliers employ formulators in their technical service departments.

b. **Quality Control Chemist** - If one likes Gas Chromatography, Infa-Red spectroscopy, and Mass Spectrometry. Every company in the industry hires these scientists.

c. **Analytical Services** – Closest thing in the industry to scientific research. Most raw material suppliers and finished goods manufacturers have analytical departments.

d. **Process Engineering** - This job involves work very similar building things and engineering. Almost any cosmetic company with manufacturing facilities will hire PE scientists.

e. **Synthesis Chemist** – If one loves organic chemistry, then raw material synthesis is the place to develop your career. Most of these jobs will be with raw material suppliers.

f. **Regulatory Scientists** – For the people who like science but do not like to be in the lab, this is a good place to go to. Nearly all companies hire regulatory scientists and even more jobs are being added, because more governmental regulations make it tougher to create innovative cosmetics.

g. **Marketing (sales)**– If one likes talking to people, but also cosmetics and cosmetics industry. Professionals in cosmetics marketing careers manage research focus groups, promote the desired brand image, and provide other marketing services (sales forecasting, allocation to different retailers, etc.).

References

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cosmetics#Cosmetic_careers

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prosthetic_makeup

<http://chemistscorner.com/how-to-become-a-cosmetic-chemist/>

¹ Adapted from <http://chemistscorner.com/how-to-become-a-cosmetic-chemist/>

² A contract manufacturer is a type of manufacturing business that specializes in producing goods for a client, based on specific criteria that is provided by that client.