

local news

▼ POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

The sciences open doors to diverse career options

There are many students who enjoy the sciences but aren't sure how this interest can be translated into a career.

The first thing students need to know is that first year science is generally the same at about every college or university in Canada.

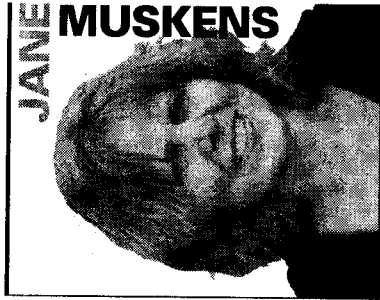
This is because science programs are considered the foundation of a number of careers and professional programs.

Many programs require students to complete a portion of a science degree or an entire degree before they are considered for admission.

For example, first-year science is usually required for entry into pharmacy.

And students interested in medicine often complete a Bachelor of Science degree in either biology or chemistry before they apply to medical school.

When deciding which



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volved in research, conservation and wildlife, environment management and education.

Chemistry degrees are hot right now with the popularity of the CSI television series.

Many people interested in crime scene investigation careers (such as a forensic analyst) will have a background in chemistry.

Chemists are also involved in pharmaceutical research and development.

Depending on the size of the college or university, computer science is often housed under the science umbrella.

Many students will complete a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science.

Careers in computer science include computer design and engineering, computer architecture, information technology, software engineering, operating systems and networks and software appli-

er processes would consider a degree in this area.

Mathematics is generally offered in science faculties, although at some schools you can also complete a Bachelor of Arts degree in math.

Many students complete a degree in mathematics for entry into teaching, computing, financial management, and data analysis.

Math is such an integral part of most science disciplines that you can find people with these degrees in a whole host of fields.

Physics is the most fundamental natural science.

Someone who is a physicist wants to understand how the world and universe works in every detail and at the deepest level.

Students who complete a degree in physics often pursue careers in research and development, education, and technology and instrumentation.

There are many fields for physicists, including biophysics, medical physics and geophysics.



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Other huge areas in science are earth and environmental science and physical geography.

Many students who are interested in the environment (geology, climatology, and hydrology to name a few) often study these disciplines.

Someone considering meteorology, which studies the atmosphere and weath-

All these disciplines are the core of a science program. Large universities often branch out from these areas and offer specialized courses and degrees in such areas as biochemistry, marine biology or ecology.

There are also a number of programs that combine disciplines.

For example, UBC Okanagan offers a degree in freshwater science, which combines courses in biology, chemistry and geography.

There are so many options for science students that I can't list them all.

If you have a keen interest in science, the best thing you can do is spend some time researching specific careers and finding out which science courses you will need to get there.

Jane Muskens is in charge of student recruitment at Okanagan College. She is currently pursuing her Masters of Science in Enrollment Management. Comments can be forwarded to jmuskens@okanagan.bc.ca.