



Product Development Food Scientist

A Product Development Food Scientist improves methods of processing, canning, freezing, storing, packaging and/or distribution of food.



Inspiring Minds to Grow

Funded by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

career profile

Name: Chelsea Mayhall
Job Title: Product Development
Food Scientist

Employer: Hormel Foods Corporation

Education: MS, University of Minnesota: Twin Cities

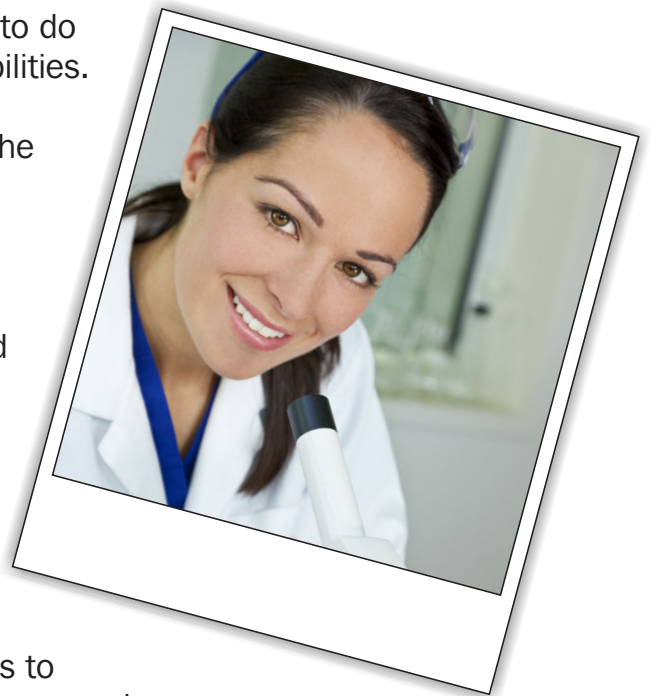
☀️ Although I gravitated to science in school and had an interest in foods, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do until I talked to my instructor about career possibilities. He said that I should consider food science, so I explored the possibilities and decided to attend the University of Minnesota to study food science.

☀️ As a food scientist, I essentially study food. I analyze the nutritional content of foods and research ways to make processed foods safe and healthy. I normally work in product development where I apply findings from research to develop new or better ways of selecting, preserving, processing, packaging, and distributing food. I design, develop, and test food processing methods and food processing equipment. I am

constantly looking for ways to improve processes and equipment to increase food manufacturing efficiency. I monitor production processes. When a process is not working as expected, I identify the cause and correct the problem.

☀️ I work with many other people to meet company production goals. I often work closely with the quality assurance team to maintain food product standards. I present and discuss processes and equipment findings with company management. I also am asked to instruct new employees about processes and equipment.

☀️ I am completely satisfied with my career choice and the path I've taken. I wouldn't change a thing.



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overview



A **product development food scientist** improves methods of processing, canning, freezing, storing, packaging, and/or distribution of food.

suggested high school courses



[agriculture science](#), food science, biology, chemistry, and mathematics

experience needed



Participate on campus in labs and research trials when possible. Seek job placement opportunities while attending school. Plan and implement a related Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Program.

degree(s) required



A bachelor's degree from an accredited post-secondary institution in food science, nutrition, or food engineering is needed. A master's or doctoral degree is beneficial.

potential employers



colleges and universities, food production companies, government inspection agencies

salary range



\$33,930 to \$105,080

employment outlook and trends



The employment outlook for product development food scientists is considered to be **good**.

professional organizations



American Council for Food Safety and Quality agfoodsafety.org/
Institute of Food Technologists www.ift.org/
National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research www.ncfar.org/



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