

Research & Development Technician

Description

A research and development (R&D) technician is responsible for assisting a researcher or research team with product development projects. They compute formulas, percentages or production-specific factors using chemical and mathematical procedures. Additionally, R&D technicians support commercialization of products by working with marketing and sales teams within the framework of the stage-gate process.

Education/Training Requirements

- Associate's degree in biology, chemistry, food science, or food technology (required)
- Bachelor's degree in similar field (required by some companies)

Recommended High School Coursework

- Agriculture Education
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Mathematics

Common Responsibilities

- Ensure accurate sample preparation
- Operate lab/kitchen and plant equipment
- Maintain culinary presentation tools
- Develop and maintain recipes
- Compute formulas, percentages or production-specific factors
- Assist with scale-up processes of prototypes into full production
- Support commercialization of products
- Perform wet chemistry analysis on finished products
- Provide assistance with microbiological testing of products
- Contribute to product development and process establishment

Typical Employers

R&D technicians are typically employed by food production companies, food chemical supply companies and government inspection agencies.

Additional Resources

[Institute of Food Technologists](#)
[Safe Food Alliance](#)
[Research Chefs Association](#)