

# Workforce Assessment in Nanotechnology Industries

An ongoing workforce assessment of more than 30 companies and educators in Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona, has found that in three key industries that could be affected by advances in nanotechnology (aerospace, semiconductor and biotechnology), it is difficult for companies to assess their gross demand for nanotechnology workers. Although companies anticipate further research in nanotechnology, they cannot be more specific. Employers nevertheless consistently mention *interdisciplinary skills* as important for nanotechnology workers, so that employees with a background in a traditional discipline can understand applications of nanotechnology in other disciplines.



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Educational institutions are beginning to create “nanotechnology degree programs,” such as an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in science and engineering manufacturing operations at Arizona State University. Furthermore, educational institutions are creating research centers and institutes with some focus on nanotechnology, such as the University of Arizona’s NanoBiomolecular Engineering, Sciences and Technology Program.

