

# MAJOR TO CAREER GUIDE

## B.S. Earth & Environmental Science

### College of Sciences Advising Center

#### Mission of the College

The College of Sciences offers programs in life sciences, chemistry, geoscience, mathematical sciences, physics and astronomy, and water management. The college has created a well-rounded curriculum by combining practical and empirical knowledge with scientific fundamentals and principles, which provides a solid foundation for a successful career in the sciences and other professional programs. The student-faculty relationship, hands-on research, and community service help ensure that students who graduate are prepared for whatever path they choose.

#### About the Earth & Environmental Science Career

The Bachelor of Science Earth & Environmental Science degree at UNLV is primarily for students interested in teaching geology and science in elementary and secondary schools. However, because of their broad training in the fundamental sciences, math, and natural phenomena and processes, Earth Scientists are employed in numerous ways. Environmental service and monitoring firms require earth and environmental scientists to monitor the environment and design remediation techniques for contaminated sites. Many earth & environmental scientists work for national laboratories, private research institutes, and colleges and universities. Additionally, many people with training in the earth and environmental sciences successfully train as lawyers and business administrators, adapting their knowledge of the Earth and its resources to the law and commerce.

#### Value of the Geology Degree

Because of the nature of their work, earth scientists are often required to travel to unique and diverse locations worldwide; relocation for job prospects, depending on the branch of earth science pursued, should be considered. Future employment trends in the earth sciences will focus on an increasing awareness to environmental systems including water, soil, and biological resources. The understanding of pollutants and contamination of earth systems will continue to be a challenge for future generations. As the nation's focus on the environment continues to grow, there is an ever-increasing demand for environmental science jobs. If you're seeking a career in this field, you can look forward to a far more robust job market than graduates of many other disciplines

#### UNLV Academic Advising for Science Majors:

*Academic Advisors who are eager to meet with students about their academic goals and to assist in constructing a plan for graduation. Advisors can also help students understand how their experiences at UNLV can lead to a career in their desired field.*

College of Sciences Advising Center  
Phone: 702-895-2077  
Campus Location: MPE-A 130  
<http://www.unlv.edu/sciences/advising>

#### Earth & Environmental Science BS Career Options

- Atmospheric Scientist
- Environmental Geologist Teacher
- Geomorphologist
- Hydrologist
- Marine Geologist
- Meteorologist
- Mineralogist
- Oceanographer
- Paleontologist
- Planetary Geologist
- Sedimentologist
- Seismologist
- Stratigraphers
- Volcanologist

\*Additional education/ certification may be required

#### Professional and Student Organizations: Earth & Environmental Science BS

UNLV Geoscience Club  
<http://geoscienceclub.wordpress.com/>  
Sigma Gamma Epsilon (SGE)  
<http://www.unlv.edu/sciences#sge>  
Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (AEG)  
Geological Society of Nevada (GSN)

*Websites for professional geoscience organizations:*

**Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS)** [www.aess.info](http://www.aess.info)  
**American Geological Institute (AGI)**,  
<http://www.agiweb.org/>  
**Geological Society of America**,  
<http://www.geosociety.org>

#### Graduate Program: Geosciences M.S. and PhD

Our Graduate program consists of both masters of science and doctoral degrees. The department has four emphases within the department's Geology degree that MS and PhD students may choose from: Geology, Geophysics, Hydrogeology, and Soil Science. We also have students from the College of Sciences' Water Resources Management Program (WRM) and Masters' of Arts and Science program (MAS).

<http://geoscience.unlv.edu/jobs.html>

# Helpful Career Information

## Employers rate candidate soft skills/qualities in order of importance

- 1 Ability to verbally communicate with persons inside and outside the organization
- 2 Ability to work in a team structure
- 3 Ability to make decisions and solve problems
- 4 Ability to plan, organize and prioritize work
- 5 Ability to obtain and process information
- 6 Ability to analyze quantitative data
- 7 Technical knowledge related to the job
- 8 Proficiency with computer software programs
- 9 Ability to create and/or edit written reports
- 10 Ability to sell or influence others

Source: Job Outlook 2013

Courtesy of the National Association of Colleges and Employers

Visit the Career Occupational Handbook to learn more about a specific occupation:

<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

The OCH covers hundreds of occupations and describes: What They Do, Work Environment, How to Become One, Pay, and more. Each profile also includes BLS employment projections for the 2010–20 decade.

### Career Exploration/Planning

**FOCUS 2:** UNLV's computerized assessment that profiles your interests, abilities, and values and helps you find a career that's right for you.

<http://hire.unlv.edu/careerAssessment.html>

**Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI):** Assessment designed to identify how you are energized, how you take in information, how you make decisions, and how you approach life.

<http://hire.unlv.edu/careerAssessmentMBTI.html>

**Strong Interest Inventory:** Generates an in-depth assessment of your interests among a broad range of occupations, work and leisure activities, and educational subjects.

<http://hire.unlv.edu/careerAssessmentStrong.html>

### UNLV Career Services

Career Services encourages ALL UNLV students to take advantage of their services, which include:

- Assistance with developing a career plan and choosing a major
- Career counseling and guidance on building a RESUME
- Preparing for an interview, assistance with job searching and networking.

Phone: 702-895-3495

Campus Location: SSC-A 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

<http://hire.unlv.edu/>

### Internship Opportunities

UNLV's **Hire a Rebel** is a free, online recruiting system that helps students, alumni, and employers connect in a variety of ways.

Students can use **Hire a Rebel** to search for: job and internship listings, on-campus recruiting interviews, employer information sessions, resume book database, & dates for career fairs.

<http://hire.unlv.edu/careerLink.html>

## MEDIAN SALARIES BY DISCIPLINE 2010-2012

Career	Salary Range	Median Salary
Environmental Scientist	\$35,724 - \$75,717	\$49,200
Meteorologist	\$30,542 - \$112,206	\$53,280
Hydrologist	\$40,745 - \$90,000	\$61,300
Oceanographer	\$35,000 - \$142,500	\$79,000

[www.payscale.com](http://www.payscale.com)

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ADVISING  
*Collaborate to Graduate*