

Careers – BS in Earth and Environmental Sciences

The future is bright for those pursuing an education in geology or a geoscience related field as demand for geoscientists is high and the opportunities are diverse. With increasing global demand for energy and natural resources; growing stresses on the environment through pollutants, population increase, patterns of consumption, and environmental change; increasing population concentration in natural hazard prone coastal regions, it is no surprise that geoscientists are in demand and increasing demand is forecast. A recent report by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics projects growth in geoscience jobs greater than 21% between 2010 and 2020, exceeding most other job sectors, and 2010 median pay for Geoscientists of \$82,500 with the highest median wages in the oil and gas industry (median \$125,350). Forbes recently ranked Geology #7 in its “15 Most Valuable College Majors”. Geoscientist employment spans a broad range of fields, including securing fossil fuel and alternative energy resources, exploration and management of minerals and natural resources, ensuring groundwater quality and supply, promoting preparedness for natural hazards, and stewardship of the environment. Further information on what Geoscientists do, where they work, and the job and salary outlook can be found in the American Geologic Institutes “Careers in Geoscience” brochure. With the Geoscience Department, students have exposure to a wide variety of career opportunities through student organizations and department activities.

Hyperlinks:

[americangeosciences.org](https://www.americangeosciences.org/workforce/geoscience-careers-brochure) - <https://www.americangeosciences.org/workforce/geoscience-careers-brochure>

[bls.gov](https://www.bls.gov/) - <https://www.bls.gov/>

[Forbes.com](http://www.forbes.com/pictures/lmj45jgfi/no-7-geology/) - <http://www.forbes.com/pictures/lmj45jgfi/no-7-geology/>

Students who complete the BS in Earth and Environmental Sciences ideally suited for introductory-level jobs in environmental consulting, energy exploration, mining, state or federal government agencies. Specialization through taking specific combinations of classes may provide additional employment opportunities in a number of sub-disciplines, and those who are interested in teaching at the middle to high school level are well qualified with this degree, in combination with teaching credentials. These jobs are often field-oriented work, where geologists collect soil, water and rock samples for lab analysis and mapping. Many industries and agencies provide additional training to BS-level geologists that allow them to perform specialized work in a particular sub-discipline. Experience in sub-disciplines such as paleontology, hydrology, soil science, geospatial sciences, or planetary geology can be gained through courses taken to satisfy this degree. In order to determine which courses are most beneficial, it is important to discuss these options with an advisor.