

Careers – Master of Science in Geoscience

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](http://www.americangeosciences.org) - <http://www.agiweb.org/workforce/brochure.html>

[bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov) - <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/geoscientists.htm#tab-1>

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

Students who complete the MS in Geoscience are ideally suited for mid to management-level jobs in environmental consulting, energy exploration, mining, state or federal government agencies. The MS is the professional degree for geoscientists, and the salary for this level can be the highest across all subdisciplines. The jobs for MS-level geologists can range from field-based work such as geologic mapping, to computer modeling, to corporate management. Industries and agencies often provide additional training to MS-level geologists that allows them to perform specialized work, but the educational experience students gain with an MS is sufficient for immediately entering the workforce at mid to high-level positions. Most employers who hire at this level are looking for some amount of specialization (e.g. hydrologist, geophysicist, geochemist, structural geologist), although possessing a well-rounded geoscience education is often attractive for most industries/agencies.