

# Careers – Doctor of Philosophy 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 PhD in Geoscience are suited for academic faculty positions, research, or management-level jobs in environmental consulting, energy exploration, mining, state or federal government agencies. The specialization that occurs in the PhD process often determines the range of careers available. Working on cutting-edge science in a university, government agency, or teaching at the university level requires a PhD.