

## 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 at 5%, exceeding many other sectors. US Bureau of Labor Statistics reports the 2025 median pay for Geoscientists at \$101,920. Geoscientist employment spans a broad range of fields, including securing critical minerals for the energy transition, and developing alternative energy resources. Geoscientists also work in exploration for fossil fuels and minerals, management of 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 Geoscience Institute's "Career Compass" brochure. In UNLV's Geoscience Department, students have exposure to a wide variety of career opportunities through student organizations and department activities.

### Hyperlinks:

americangeosciences.org -

<https://profession.americangeosciences.org/collections/career-compass/>

bls.gov - <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/geoscientists.htm#tab-1>

<https://www.grow-geocareers.com/home>

Students who complete the PhD in Geoscience are suited for academic faculty positions, museum curator positions, and research or management-level jobs in state or federal government agencies. Positions may also be found in environmental consulting, energy exploration, and mining. 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.