



GEOLOGY

What is geology and what do geologists do?

Geology is the scientific study of planet Earth, emphasizing its physical makeup, its history, and how it works. Study extends across the entire Earth surface, from the Earth's core to the edge of the Atmosphere, and back through time.

Geologists investigate the materials, processes, and products of the Earth to increase understanding of the planet and its history, to supply things we need, to protect the environment, and to mitigate natural hazards.

Who employs geologists and what is the employment outlook?

Geologists are employed by federal and state government, industry, and educational and research institutions. Several topical issues present challenges—and employment opportunities—for geologists. These include decreasing energy, mineral, and water resources, increasing concerns about protecting the environment, global warming and its effect on sea level and climate, and predicting and mitigating natural hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, and landslides

Money Magazine has ranked **Geologist** as 2nd overall out of the 100 perceived best occupations, and in the top 10 for job satisfaction.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in May 2006 the median annual earnings of geoscientists were \$72,660. Beginning salary offers in July 2007 for graduates with BS degrees in geology averaged \$40,786. In 2007, the Federal Government's average salary was \$87,392 for geologists.

The Department of Geosciences offers both the BS and BA degrees in Geology.

The **B.S. degree** is designed for those who expect to continue in graduate work and/or to become professional geoscientists.

The **B.A. degree** is designed for students who want strong preparation for allied fields such as teaching at the pre-college level, urban planning, law, civil engineering, environmental studies, and museum work.

Contact:

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Program Highlights

A summer course in Wyoming provides hands-on experience with geology skills in a classic setting world famous for its dinosaur fossils.

The Schramm Course in Economic and Exploration Geology offers field trips to classic geological locations. Recent destinations include the Bahamas, Australia, Canada, and England.

Our top students enjoy the support of a strong alumni-supported scholarship program.

Many students complete a senior research thesis while working in the laboratories of active researchers.

A low faculty-to-student ratio and small majors classes provide for individual attention and education.

Most of our recent graduates have landed a job in the geosciences or have gone on to pursue a higher degree.

