



# Careers in Geoscience

California State University, Long Beach

Geological Sciences, Geography, Geoarchæology,  
Environmental Science & Policy

## What can I do with a degree in geoscience?

### *some employers who hire geoscientists:*

- International Institutions
  - CARE
  - United Nations
  - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
  - World Bank
  - Global Environmental Facility
- California State Agencies
  - California Geological Survey
  - Department of Water Resources (DWR)
  - California Coastal Commission
  - CalTrans
  - California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)
- Private Sector Firms
  - Thomas Bros./Rand-McNally
  - Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI)
  - Aerospace Corp.
  - SCS Engineering
- Federal Agencies
  - National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
  - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
  - U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
  - U.S. Forest Service (USFS), National Park Service (NPS)
  - U.S. Intelligence Agencies (CIA, NSA, NGA, FBI)
- Local Agencies
  - Metropolitan Water District (MWD)
  - Southern California Association of Governments
  - Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP)
  - Southern California Association of Governments
  - City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering, Department of Public Works
  - Unocal (Union 76)
  - CH2M Hill Consulting
  - Earth Tech
  - Tetra Tech

### *typical job titles held by graduates with geoscience degrees:*

- geologist
- Certified Geologist
- petroleum geologist
- cartographer
- GIS analyst
- imagery analyst
- remote sensing specialist
- earth scientist
- environmental scientist
- environmental planner
- environmental impact analyst
- environmental quality specialist
- meteorologist
- weather forecaster
- climatologist
- soil scientist
- waste management specialist
- park ranger or interpreter
- emergency management officer
- project manager
- cultural resource specialist
- historic preservation planner
- urban, community, or regional planner
- middle or high school teacher
- professor
- intelligence analyst
- Registered Professional Archæologist
- biogeographer
- ecologist
- hydrologist
- water resources specialist
- coastal zone specialist



**what can I expect to earn?** This varies by the particular major you study, the particular subfield you specialize in, skills you acquire, how much math is in your background, whether you have a bachelor's or graduate degree, your seniority and level of responsibility, prevalent practices in a particular region, whether you're in the private sector or public sector, and your own initiative and assertiveness.

**wage and salary estimates for geosciences** (Occupational Employment Statistics program with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of May 2006, <http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/>):

- for anthropologists and archaeologists**

Base	Average	10 <sup>th</sup> percentile	25 <sup>th</sup> percentile	Median:50 <sup>th</sup> percentile	75 <sup>th</sup> percentile	90 <sup>th</sup> percentile
Hourly	\$25.43	\$ 13.92	\$17.38	\$24.00	\$32.02	\$39.18
Annual	\$52,900	\$28,940	\$36,150	\$49,930	\$66,610	\$81,490

- for environmental scientists, including health**

Base	Average	10 <sup>th</sup> percentile	25 <sup>th</sup> percentile	Median:50 <sup>th</sup> percentile	75 <sup>th</sup> percentile	90 <sup>th</sup> percentile
Hourly	\$29.38	\$ 16.63	\$20.60	\$26.97	\$35.81	\$45.51
Annual	\$61,120	\$34,590	\$42,840	\$56,100	\$74,480	\$94,670

- for geographers**

Base	Average	10 <sup>th</sup> percentile	25 <sup>th</sup> percentile	Median:50 <sup>th</sup> percentile	75 <sup>th</sup> percentile	90 <sup>th</sup> percentile
Hourly	\$31.73	\$18.04	\$24.10	\$30.28	\$37.39	\$45.16
Annual	\$63,720	\$37,530	\$50,120	\$62,990	\$77,770	\$93,930

- for geologists**

Base	Average	10 <sup>th</sup> percentile	25 <sup>th</sup> percentile	Median:50 <sup>th</sup> percentile	75 <sup>th</sup> percentile	90 <sup>th</sup> percentile
Hourly	\$38.41	\$19.11	\$24.93	\$34.93	\$48.39	\$65.36
Annual	\$79,890	\$39,740	\$51,860	\$72,660	\$100,650	\$135,950

- for hydrologists**

Base	Average	10 <sup>th</sup> percentile	25 <sup>th</sup> percentile	Median:50 <sup>th</sup> percentile	75 <sup>th</sup> percentile	90 <sup>th</sup> percentile
Hourly	\$32.80	\$20.23	\$24.70	\$31.86	\$39.49	\$47.27
Annual	\$68,230	\$42,080	\$51,370	\$66,260	\$82,140	\$89,320

**to learn more:**

- IL State Museum archaeology jobs FAQs:** <http://www.museum.state.il.us/ismdepts/anthro/dlcfaq.html>
- Environmental Careers Organization:** <http://www.eco.org/>
- Association of American Geographers:** <http://www.aag.org/Careers/Intro.html>
- American Geological Institute:** <http://www.agiweb.org/workforce/>
- Water Encyclopedia:** <http://www.waterencyclopedia.com/Bi-Ca/Careers-in-Hydrology.html>

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