A variety of opportunities exist for geology graduates in the private and public sectors and in education. Petroleum companies, petroleum service companies, mining companies, power companies, computer software companies, and entrepreneurs hire geologists for exploration, development, mining, production, and research. Federal government resource agencies use geologists for geologic mapping, oil-gas-coal-groundwater resource evaluation, geochemical water studies, leasing and conservation studies, resource restoration and rehabilitation programs, and research.

State and local governments hire geologists for geologic and soils mapping, resource evaluation, public information, consulting, and writing. Environmental, engineering, and groundwater firms use geologists for mapping, restoration and rehabilitation planning, monitoring and evaluation of geologic hazards, and site evaluation for feasibility and implementation of construction projects, water reuse evaluation, groundwater pollution assessment, groundwater cleanup, and pollution prevention. Schools, colleges, universities, national laboratories, and private research firms employ geologists in a variety of teaching, research, and administrative positions.

Participation in internships, volunteer activities, or cooperative education opportunities is highly recommended to enhance practical training and development. Graduates who go on for advanced studies can continue in one of a number of geological disciplines or can opt for related fields of study, such as seismology, hydrology, meteorology, oceanography, and the space sciences.

Those with advanced degrees can attain more responsible positions with the possibility of rising to top professional levels. Some examples of career possibilities include, but are not limited to: educator, environmental consultant, exploration geologist, environmental geologist, geologist, geophysicist, hydrologist, mining geologist, oceanographer, production geologist, researcher, resource evaluator, or seismologist. With additional training, geologists may also pursue careers in business, law, or even medicine.

*From the CSU University Catalog* 

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**Actual Job Titles of Graduates**
- Field Technician
- Geologist
- Geotechnical Field Engineer
- Geotechnician
- Junior Geologist
- Mine Geologist
- Staff Geologist

**Actual Employers of Graduates**
- AECOM Environmental
- BHP Billiton
- EnCan Oil & Gas
- Goolsby Brothers and Associates
- Newmont Mining
- Nyac Gold LLC
- Occidental Petroleum
- Schlumberger
- Terracon
- UR Energy
Research experience gives students a taste of what a career in geology would be like and an edge in applying for graduate schools and jobs. But the edge isn’t what it used to be—many employers and graduate schools have come to expect it. Additionally, while five weeks of Geology Field Camp is a great base of skills, having work experience that demonstrates you can apply your academic knowledge out in the field or lab is important.

Many undergraduates will conduct research for college credit or volunteer with a professor or graduate student to gain experience. More importantly, many undergraduates take paid summer research positions in lieu of a summer job.

The best way to find a job on campus is to network with your professors—don’t send a mass email to all faculty members. Read about the work they are doing and contact those that interest you. You may need a little persistence and patience to get a position.

Exploring a career through an internship or research experience, as an undergraduate will help you decide if geology is right for you. It will also give you time to look at other options!

Importance of Research Experience

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Things employers want</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Communication Skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Honesty/Integrity</td>
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<td>3. Teamwork Skills</td>
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<td>5. Motivation/Initiative</td>
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<td>9. Computer Skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Organizational Skills</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In the Fall of 2008, WCNR surveyed alumni from 1987—2007 to find out where they are now. Of those who graduated from the Geosciences program and responded to the survey, here are some highlights.

100% employed or not seeking employment

79% employed in the same or related field to their degree; 14% employed in different field by choice

92% are very or moderately satisfied with their job

89% found their education extremely, very, or moderately helpful to their current job

Salaries average approximately $61,800

The Career Center
www.career.colostate.edu

WCNR Career Page
warnercnr.colostate.edu/career-services/

Geological Society of America
www.geosociety.org/profdev/

GeoCorps America
rock.geosociety.org/g_corps/index.htm

Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates
www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.cfm

InfoMine
www.infomine.com/careers/

American Geological Institute
www.agiweb.org/workforce/

American Association of Petroleum Geologist
www.aapg.org/careers/careercenter.cfm

American Water Resources Association
careers.awra.org/
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10 Things employers want

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2. Honesty/Integrity
3. Teamwork Skills
4. Interpersonal Skills
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7. Analytical Skills
8. Flexibility/Adaptability
9. Computer Skills
10. Organizational Skills

With more Education or Experience...

The career opportunities on the first page are what you might expect from your first job. However, as you gain more experience and/or education, there are a number of other opportunities that may open up to you.

For example, as you progress in your career, you may move from “Geotechnician” to a “Geologist” to a “Vice President of Exploration”. Perhaps you may become a “specialist” or a “manager.” Some of these jobs require experience; others require a Master’s degree or higher.

Assistant Project Scientist
Environmental Engineer
Environmental Scientist
Exploration Geochemist
Geophysicist

Hydrogeologist
Principal Geologist
Principal Planner
Professor
Project Geologist

Senior Associate
Senior Fluvial Geomorphologist
Senior Geological Technician
Senior Project Manager
Vice President of Exploration

warnercnr.colostate.edu/career-services/
Graduate School Checklist:

- Determine which degree will be most beneficial to you in your career growth, M.S., Ph.D., J.D.
- Develop a list of schools that offer programs in areas that interest you; warnercnr.colostate.edu/apply-to-graduate-school/
- Obtain information about the research professors are conducting at the schools.
- Gather information about the programs and rate them.
- Gain experience in the field you want to pursue in graduate school.
- Ensure that you have met all undergraduate prerequisites for the graduate school program(s) you apply for.
- Develop a plan to pay for graduate school.

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career.colostate.edu