

GEOLOGIST

What's a Geologist?

Geologists, or geoscientists, research the nature and history of the earth's crust, the atmosphere and hydrosphere, the distribution and properties of rocks and the stratigraphic arrangement of the earth. They identify and classify rocks, minerals and fossils. The data they collect are used to create maps, reports and databases that describe the geology of a region.

Geologists plan, direct and participate in geological field studies and drilling and testing programs. Rock samples from drilling are analysed to help identify new mining and petroleum resources. Geologists are also involved in environmental and land-use planning. Some geologists identify aggregate resources (e.g., sand and gravel) used for construction materials.



Training Required

A four-year program in Geological Sciences offered at most major universities, including the University of Manitoba and Brandon University. Post-graduate work leading to a Master's or Doctoral degree may be required by some employers. The admissions requirements can be obtained by contacting the individual admissions offices. Most provinces require professional registration; Manitoba instituted this requirement in 1999. High school students should include mathematics (Pre-calculus 40S, Chemistry 40S and Physics 40S) in their areas of study.

Working Conditions

Geologists work in a variety of indoor and outdoor settings. Laboratory and office work involves regular hours, whereas field work involves day, evening, weekend and holiday hours during any season. Geologists may also work in a surface open pit and/or underground mining environment. Travelling is almost always required. Geologists may be exposed to extreme temperatures, primitive living conditions and other climatic factors. The physical demand of the work is moderate to high. Field work usually requires hiking through bush-covered terrain, lifting and carrying equipment and rocks, and operating motor vehicles and small engines.

Geologist Q & A

What kinds of employers hire geologists?

- Petroleum Companies
- Mining Companies
- Geotechnical Firms
- Government (Federal, Provincial)
- Crown Corporations
- Educational Institutions
- Private Consulting Firms
- Museums
- Environmental Consulting Firms
- Self Employment

What specialties can geologists go into?

- Hydrogeologist
- Mineralogist
- Geochemist
- Glaciologist
- Geophysicist
- Paleontologist
- Palynologist
- Economic Geologist
- Volcanologist
- Environmental Geologist

What are some occupations related to geology?

- Mining Engineers
- Geological Engineers
- Hydrologist
- Metallurgist
- Geographer
- Cartographer
- GIS Specialist

What is the salary range for geologists?

Provincial government salaries range from \$39,000 to \$80,000. Private sector salaries range from \$45,000 to \$120,000.

Where can I get more information on becoming a geologist?

- Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of the Province of Manitoba, (204) 474-2736, Web site: www.apegm.mb.ca
- Department of Geological Sciences, University of Manitoba, (204) 474-9371 Web site: www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/science/geological_sciences
- Department of Geology, Brandon University, (204) 727-9680 Web site: www.brandonu.ca/geology
- Geological Survey of Canada, Web site: gsc.nrcan.gc.ca/education_e.php
- Canadian Geoscience Council, Web site: www.science.uwaterloo.ca/earth/geoscience/careers.html
- Mining Association of Manitoba, (204) 989-1890
- Canadian Council of Professional Geoscientists, Web site: www.ccpge.ca
- Manitoba Industry, Economic Development and Mines (204) 945-6569 or 1 800 223-5215 (toll free) Web site: www.gov.mb.ca/iedm/mrd