

Have you ever wondered how a mountain forms? Or why mountains exist in one location but not another? Or where the water you drink comes from? Or where we will safely store the huge quantities of waste materials a modern society produces? Or perhaps you have wondered why fossil fuels are so named or why certain locations have abundant fossil fuels while other areas are barren? Or been captivated by dinosaurs or gemstones? Have you ever wondered about how and why earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides, or floods occur? If you have a curiosity about the surface of the earth you may want to investigate geology, the science that studies these phenomenon and much more. As an intellectual field of study, geology attempts to understand how all the features of the earth are formed and in what historical sequence. As an applied field of study, geologists take the basic understanding of earth processes and attempt to predict where oil, gas, coal, and other earth resources are located and how best to extract them.

Geologists also help to locate and predict geologic hazards such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, tsunamis, and other potential natural disasters. Others may apply geologic process knowledge to the prediction of past human occupation sites for archaeologists and then aid in the physical environment during the time of site occupancy.

Others with geologic knowledge, called planetologists, use knowledge of planet earth to understand other planets in the solar system. Geologist also occupy many related sub-specialties across a wide array of interrelated academic disciplines.

The B.S.in Geology offers a strong foundation in the basics of geology that adequately prepares graduates for graduate studies and/or employment across a number of commercial firms and governmental agencies. Those with specific interest in environmental applications may wish to dual enroll in the Environmental Geoscience program which is specifically designed to prepare students to work in the rapidly expanding environmental consulting field.

Individuals who would like teaching may want to investigate the Secondary Education – Earth and Space Science program. A further increase in graduate marketability is available through courses and the Minor in Geographic Information Science (GIS). Such knowledge adds powerful mapping and spatial analysis tools to the skills of geology graduates.