



GEOLOGY— Major Steps

Are you considering a major in Geology?

While in High school, take the following classes:

- Four years of English
- At least three or more years of Math
- Two to three years of Science including Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- Three years of Social Science
- Foreign language skills can be helpful
- Develop strong computer skills

Geologists work to understand the history and the current conditions of the earth. With the knowledge of the evolution of the world, geologists can make predictions of how different factors and events will impact the future.

Earning a Bachelor's degree will qualify you for an entry level job in Geology. Most geologists continue their education, earning their Masters or Doctorate to acquire a higher level of training in a specialty area such as paleontology, mineralogy, hydrology, or volcanology.



Geologists are employed in a variety of settings such as natural resources companies, environmental consulting companies, government agencies, non-profit organizations and universities. (geology.com)

A professional geologist is involved in research and problem solving. The type of questions that geologists explore include — determin-

ing the placement of a bridge or other major structures, selecting the best location for drilling oil, or predicting the likelihood of a landslide or volcanic eruption.

As a geologist, you will collect and process data, make and communicate decisions, analyze problems from multiple view points, and conduct your research in an exact, detailed manner.

Geologists work to understand the history of our planet. The better they can understand Earth's history, the better they can foresee...the future.

Work with your faculty advisor

Working with your faculty advisor can be an invaluable resource for you. Your faculty advisor can provide you with information about class selection and sequencing, internships, and differences between baccalaureate Geology programs. A recommendation written by faculty who really knows you can enhance your application into a Geology major and can be used for future jobs and internships.

To request an advisor, come to the Educational Planning and Advising Center located in Building 6 or email edplanning@highline.edu.

How can you prepare for a Geology major while attending Highline?

Every effort has been made to provide current, accurate publication content. Students should seek additional information from HCC and university advisors.

To transfer into a Geology program, you can complete an Associate of Arts degree. You may want to consider completing an Associate of Science (AS) degree in Geology but it is best to discuss this option with a Geology instructor.

To better acquaint yourself with the field of Geology, it can be beneficial to enroll in one or two of Highline's one-credit field study Geology classes. (Courses include the Mt. St Helen's Field Trip, Geology of the Cascades Field

Trip and the Puget Sound Geology Field Trip)

To prepare for a Geology major, it is recommended that you enroll in the following classes while attending Highline Community College:

GEO 101

One Geology class numbered at the 200 level

ENGL& 101

ENGL 205 or ENGL& 235

CHEM& 161, 162, 163

Physics 100 (If you have not taken Physics in high school)

MATH& 151

MATH& 146

What are the career opportunities in Geology and Geophysics?

The national average salary for geologists with a Masters degree or higher is \$75,800. In Washington the average entry level wage for a geologist or geophysicist is \$69,888 yearly. (WOIS 2008).

Between 2006 and 2016, the occupation is expected to

grow much faster than the average of all occupations. In the state of Washington, employment is expected to increase by 14.8% during this period.

The shortage is particularly acute within the petroleum and natural gas field.

Geologists who speak a foreign language and are willing to travel or live abroad will probably have the best career opportunities in this field.

Listings of Washington State Geology Programs

Geology Programs:

University of Washington:

www.washington.edu

Eastern Washington University:

www.ewu.edu

Pacific Lutheran University:

www.plu.edu

University of Puget Sound:

www.ups.edu

Washington State University:

www.wsu.edu

Western Washington University:

www.wwu.edu

Central Washington University:

www.cwu.edu

Whitman College:

www.whitman.edu

Additional Information Resource:

Geological Society of America:

www.geosociety.org/pubs/geology.htm

