

# What you can do with your Geology & Geophysics MAJOR



## Major Skills



### Earth Exploration & Mapping

You explore and characterize the planet like a modern adventurer, using cutting-edge tools to create maps that guide industry and conservation efforts.



### Data Analysis & Visualization

You turn raw data from rocks, landscapes, and satellites into actionable insights using state-of-the-art tools.



### Hands-On Field & Lab Experience

You gain hands-on skills collecting and analyzing samples in the field, complemented by lab work that uses the latest technologies to decode Earth history.



### Interdisciplinary Discovery & Collaboration

You integrate knowledge from natural history, physics, chemistry, biology, and mathematics to address complex geological and environmental challenges.



### Problem-Solving for Global Challenges

You develop the skills to address critical issues like sustainable resource use, climate change, and natural disasters, skills sought by employers in the private and public sectors.



### Scientific Literacy & Communication

You evaluate scientific evidence and learn to convey complex geological ideas in ways that inspire action, whether working with researchers, policymakers, or private industry.

## Supplement Your Skills With:



Leadership Opportunities in Student Organizations & Community Groups



Participation in Professional Organizations, Seminars & Workshops



Experience Fostering Respectful & Inclusive Working Groups



Worldwide Field Research Experiences with Departmental Personnel



Volunteer & Service Experiences, Including through the UW Geology Museum

## Chart Your Path Forward

### Activate Your Handshake Account

for connections to jobs, internships, employer & alumni networking.

### Explore Career Communities

to discover a wide variety of fields where you can turn your major into success.

### Get Career & Internship Advising

from SuccessWorks to make a plan, whether you're a first-year student or about to graduate.

**Get Started: [successworks.wisc.edu](https://successworks.wisc.edu)**

# Put your Geology & Geophysics major to **WORK**

## Common Employers of Alumni

1. Stantec
2. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
3. University of Wisconsin
4. Geosyntec Consultants
5. TRC Companies Inc.
6. U.S Geological Survey
7. Golder
8. SCS Engineers
9. Hess Corporation
10. Rio Tinto
11. Tetra Tech
12. Arcadis
13. Barr Engineering Co.
14. Exact Sciences
15. ExxonMobil
16. HNTB
17. GEI Consultants Inc.
18. SCS Engineers
19. Petronas Digital
20. The Foth Companies

## Common Alumni Job Titles

- Geologist/Development Geologist
- Project Manager
- Geotechnical/Environmental/Civil Engineer
- Hydrogeologist/Hydrologist
- Business Owner/Founder
- Professor
- President/CEO
- Consultant
- Software Engineer
- Geoscientist/Geophysicist
- Account Manager
- Business Development Manager
- Director
- Vice President
- Environmental Specialist/Scientist

## Recent Grads' Career Plans

- 74%** Employment
- 21%** Continuing Education/Grad School
- 5%** Military Service/Other

## Alumni Industry of Employment

- Engineering
- Natural Resources
- Information Technology
- Education
- Government
- Research
- Healthcare
- Construction

## Where Alumni Live & Work

- 31%** Wisconsin
- 9%** Colorado
- 8%** Texas
- 7%** Minnesota
- 45%** Other



"UW-Madison offered me an incredible breadth of courses that provided process-based problem solving and critical thinking, skills I use everyday as a hazard geologist. The Geology/Geophysics major prepared me for the broad geology topics I have seen and the framework built at UW is undoubtedly present in my day to day work."

**Hudson J. Koch, 2018**  
Geologist, Kentucky Geological Survey  
Lexington, KY



"My Geology major led me to my dream job that I didn't know existed. As an exploration geologist, I spend much of my time outside looking at rocks as I try to find critical mineral deposits to fuel the green energy transition. In order to understand and find mineral deposits, I integrate every sub-field of geoscience across microscopic to tectonic scales. In that way, it is truly interdisciplinary and collaborative."

**Allie Macho, 2012**  
Project Geoscientist, Rio Tinto  
Salt Lake City, UT

## Career Communities for Geology & Geophysics Majors

SuccessWorks has eight Career Communities to connect you with career advising, resources, and programs. Here are a few suggestions on where Geology & Geophysics majors can start.

- Environment, Sustainability & Conservation
- Government, Policy, International Affairs & Law
- Technology, Data, & Analytics
- Scientific Research

Not inspired by these options? Visit [SuccessWorks](https://successworks.wisc.edu) to explore more widely.

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