

## NATURE OF WORK

Geologists use their knowledge of the physical makeup and history of the Earth to protect the environment; locate water, mineral, and energy resources; predict future geologic hazards; and offer advice on construction and land-use projects. A geologist who is looking for deposits of gas and oil is known as a petroleum geologist. A petroleum geologist uses scientific instruments and computers to analyze the ocean floor and land masses to determine if the conditions are favorable the accumulation of deposits and for possible drilling sites.

## WORKING CONDITIONS

The majority of a petroleum geologist's time is spent in an office reviewing data on core samples, interpreting maps and running computer simulations to determine if gas or oil may be trapped in a particular area. Cross checking their analysis and making sure that the area has not been drilled previously and that their company has the authority to be in the drilling area is also important. The geologist will use their findings to create presentations for company officials to help determine if drilling will be profitable. Geologists usually work as part of a team of geoscientists so good interpersonal skills is a must.

## TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS

A petroleum geologist must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree, though most employers prefer a master's. Many of these positions require international travel so speaking a second language may be helpful.

## OUTLOOK

Employment for a petroleum geologist is largely dictated by the natural fluctuations of energy costs and the economy. Government policy has an influence over job openings as well. Geologists who have Ph.D.s are more likely to find employment than those will lesser degrees.

## CAREER OPTIONS

Petroleum geologist, geoscientist

## ESTIMATED SALARY RANGE

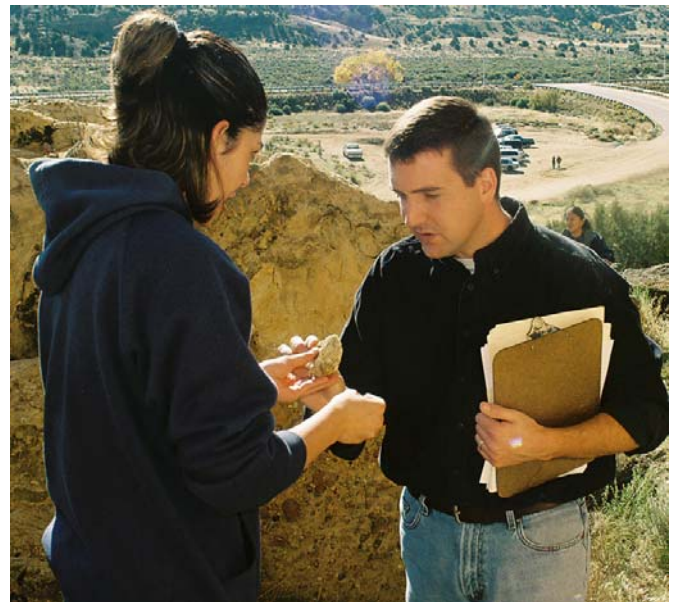
Nationally— \$54,470.00- \$113,390  
(depending on skill, experience and responsibility)

## RELATED OCCUPATIONS

Engineering technician, science technician, petroleum engineers, surveyors, cartographers, photogrammetrists, physicists, chemists, and environmentalists.

## SJC Basic Program Information

Designed for students who will be transferring to other colleges or universities to acquire advanced degrees.



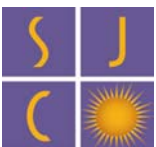
### For further information go to:

[www.sanjuancollege.edu/pages/158.asp](http://www.sanjuancollege.edu/pages/158.asp)

[www.bls.gov/oco/ocos312.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos312.htm)

[www.aapg.org](http://www.aapg.org)

\*Most of this information is from the  
Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010-2011



Updated as of July 28, 2010