Geology is the study of the planet Earth - the materials of which it is made, the processes that act upon these materials, and the history of the planet and life forms since its origin. Geology considers the physical forces acting on and operating within the earth, the chemistry of its constituent materials, and the biology of its past and present inhabitants. Geology also includes the study of the interrelationships in the modern environment of humans and geological phenomena such as important concerns about how our global environment and climate are changing and how these changes will affect human activities.

Sample Coursework
- Physical Geology
- Introduction to Mineralogy
- Introduction to Petrology
- Earth Materials
- Structural Geology
- Reporting Skills in Geosciences
- Evolution

Possible Career Opportunities
- Archaeologist*
- Biologist*
- Ecologist*
- Geologist
- Geophysicist
- Petroleum Engineer

* = Career option requires additional training or education

Employment and Graduate School Information

Employment Outlook
The demand for geoscientists is expected to grow by 22% through 2016 which is much faster than average for all occupations. Driving job growth will be public policy, which will force companies and organizations to comply with environmental laws and regulations. Geoscientists monitor the quality of the environment, including aquatic ecosystems, deteriorating coastal environments, and rising sea level, all of which will create employment growth. An expected increase in highway building and other infrastructure projects will also be a source of jobs for engineering geologists. (Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-09).

Salary Expectations
Examples of national median annual salaries of careers that can be obtained with a Geology degree are (O*NET, 12/2013):

- Archaeologist* $57,420
- Ecologist* $63,570
- Petroleum Engineer $130,280
- Biologist* $69,850
- Geologist $90,890

(This section is intended for informational purposes, not prediction of actual salary. Salary information is based on national salary ranges which are greatly impacted by location and relative cost of living.)

Graduate/Professional School Opportunities
Geology graduates may choose to pursue advanced degrees in one of the following areas:

- Geology
- Health Fields
- Business Management
- Environmental Science
- Education
- Law
- Education
- Environmental Science

Where Can I Get More Information?

IUPUI Department of Earth Sciences
Office: SL 118 Phone: (317) 274-7484

Areas of Emphasis in Careers – Purdue

United States Geological Survey

Interest Code

Investigative
Realistic
Social