A master's degree in geoscience:

- builds on the broad foundation of the B.S. with further training in a specific area of geoscience.
- prepares graduates for industry positions requiring skills and knowledge specific to a particular field (e.g., mining or engineering geology).
- improves qualifications for many entry-level positions in industry and government (and potential salary).
- promotes career growth and advancement to positions such as project leader, program manager, or senior researcher.

M.S.

Further training in a geoscience sub-discipline.

Required for some entry-level positions.

Most likely to promote career growth in industry and government positions.

How do you get a M.S. in geoscience?

After earning a B.S. in geoscience or a related field, students can apply to graduate programs offering M.S. degrees. Students should look for strong programs relevant to the field they hope to work in (e.g., economic geology programs for students interested in the mining industry). In the United States, a geoscience M.S. program typically takes two years to complete and involves taking courses focused on a specific area of the geosciences and conducting original research to complete a thesis. Most M.S. students are funded by their departments, meaning that the department pays for students' tuition while students hold teaching assistant or graduate research assistant positions, which also provide a stipend for living expenses.

Geoscience Career Master's Preparation Survey Report

Heather R. Houlton
American Geosciences Institute
Workforce Program

The American Geosciences Institute (AGI) conducted a study of geoscience M.S. programs to assess the preparation and career paths of M.S. graduates.

To view data and findings from the *Geoscience Career Master's Preparation Survey*, visit the AGI **Geo Career MaPS** website.

Example job titles for an M.S. graduate

Engineering technician
Laboratory technician
Exploration geologist
Geological engineer
Petroleum geologist
Research assistant
Data analyst
Environmental scientist
Government research scientist
Survey technician