



CAREER PROFILE

Oceanographer

CAREER OUTLOOK ²

The need for professionals in the geosciences is expected to grow at an average rate.

Projected job growth:
7% (2020–2030)

Average salary:
\$83,680/year

Oceanographers study the ocean to learn about the past, present, and future. They use a mixture of math and science to look at the physical and chemical properties of the ocean and how they affect climate, weather, and coastal areas. They may also be ocean engineers, building systems to help monitor ocean environments. If you are a swimmer who loves the outdoors and a good adventure, being an oceanographer might be the perfect career for you!

WHAT IS AN OCEANOGRAPHER? ¹

Did you know that ninety-eight percent of the ocean floor is unexplored?

Oceanographers plan and carry out field studies: conducting surveys and collecting samples. They then take the samples back to the laboratory to test them. They may also look at past logs and analyze aerial photographs to get more of a global view of their study site. They also make their own maps and charts along the way. These explorations lead to finding underwater landforms, new species, or insight into historical ways of life.

IS OCEANOGRAPHER A GOOD CAREER FOR ME?

Oceanographers are:

- curious and adventurous
- analytical
- complex problem solvers
- effective communicators
- physically fit

¹ <https://www.americangeosciences.org/education/k5geosource/careers/oceanographer>

² <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/geoscientists.htm#tab-1>



Oceanographer

AM I...

- Curious?
- Analytical?
- Adventurous?
- Physically active?

DO I...

- Like to solve Problems?
- Enjoy the outdoors?
- Communicate effectively?

HOW DO I BECOME AN OCEANOGRAPHER?

You will need to:

- take classes in science and math.
- spend time outdoors, in the water, and being physically active.
- study earth science and marine biology in college.
- get job experience working with marine life.