What does a major in Geology prepare me to do?

Geologists and geophysicists are two closely related professional pathways that a student majoring in Geology might pursue. Geologists study how rocks are formed and how they have changed over time. They research the evolution of life by studying plants and animal fossils. Geophysicists not only study the surface of the earth but also the interior as well as the forces that affect the earth. The individuals who pursue these careers spend their time gathering and analyzing data and then interpreting the results. Governments and companies hire geologists and geophysicists to conduct research on a variety of issues that include predicting earthquakes, siting buildings for construction and developing methods to increase oil production. Many government agencies employ geologist to examine a host of environmental protection issues.

There are many specializations within geology and geophysics. For example, petroleum geologists explore for oil and gas deposits and volcanologists investigate volcanoes and try to predict future eruptions. Seismologists study data about earthquakes and engineering geologists are consulted when a determination needs to be made about the location of a construction project.

Almost half of the professionals in this field have a masters or doctoral degree. According to the Washington Occupational Information System (WOIS) website, the median salary for a geologist in Washington State is $77,282. The employment outlook for this profession is very good. Over the next ten years, all occupations are predicted to grow by 14.5% and geoscientists openings are expected to grow by 23.3%.
How do I prepare for a major in Geology?
Students interested in pursuing a major in Geology should complete the Associate of Arts degree. Classes that you should consider selecting for your AA degree include the following:
Geology 101
One Geology class numbered at the 200 level
English &101 and 205 or &235
Chemistry & 161, 162, 163
Physics &201 and 139 if you have not taken Physics in high school
Math & 151
Math & 146

What Washington colleges offer this major?
In Washington State there are a number of colleges that offer Geology major. Public universities that offer the Geology major include the University of Washington-Seattle, Eastern Washington University, Central Washington University, Western Washington University, Washington State University, and Evergreen State College. Whitman College, University of Puget Sound, Seattle University, and Pacific Lutheran are among the private colleges that offer Geology major.

Where can I get more information on this career?
Geological Society of America
www.geosociety.org

American Geological Institute
www.agiweb.org

Environmental Career Center. LLC
http://environmentalcareer.com

How do I get a faculty advisor?
To request a faculty advisor, go to: http://edplanning.highline.edu/request.advisor.php or drop in at the Educational Planning and Advising Center (EPAC) in Building 6.

For hours of operation, go to http://edplanning.highline.edu/