

Skills and Knowledge Needed

Knowledge

Biology
Chemistry
Mathematics
Education/Training
Computers & Electronics
Communications & Media
Geography
Physics

Work Styles

Attention to Detail
Integrity
Initiative
Dependability
Independence
Persistence
Adaptability
Innovation

Skills/Abilities

Science (rules & methods)
Active Listening
Critical Thinking

Communication Skills

Judgment & Decision Making
Reading Comprehension
Complex Problem Solving
Active Learning
Systems Analysis
Writing
Reasoning
Observation



Make soil part of your life.

Learn more about careers in soil science at:
www.soils.org/careers

Sources/Career Sites

USDA-NRCS website:

<http://soils.usda.gov/education/facts/careers.html>

Soil Science Society of America

www.soils.org/careers | www.soils4teachers.org



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Explore Careers in Soil Science



www.soils.org/careers



Soil scientists explore and seek to understand the earth's land and water resources. Students of soil science learn to identify, interpret, and manage soils for agriculture, forestry, rangeland, ecosystems, urban uses, and mining and reclamation in an environmentally responsible way. Graduates can choose from a range of excellent professional opportunities and challenging careers.

People who become soil scientists...

- have a love of science
- enjoy working outdoors
- have an enthusiasm for maps and relationships in nature
- desire to be integral in environmental decisions related to soil conservation, land use, water quality, or waste management
- have a willingness to communicate their knowledge about soils and the environment to all aspects of our society

Soil science . . .

- encompasses biology, ecology, and a variety of earth and other natural resource sciences.
- interfaces with geology and geography.
- focuses on understanding, managing, and improving land and water.
- uses chemistry, physics, microbiology, and mathematics, as well as high technology tools for soil exploration, analysis, data interpretation, and modeling of soil and landscape processes.
- integrates concerns for people, food production, and the environment.

Soil scientists. . .

- bring science and technology to issues involving soil and water resources.
- are well versed in the natural sciences.
- play key roles in public and private decisions related to soil and water resources.
- are employed in the private sector with environmental and agricultural consulting firms.
- are employed with U.S. government and international agencies.
- may attend graduate school in soil science or closely related environmental, natural resource, or agricultural sciences.

Soil scientists may work on. . .

- conducting research in public and private research institutions
- managing soils for crop production, forest products and erosion control management.
- teaching in colleges and universities
- predicting the effect of land management options on natural resources
- helping to design hydrologic plans in suburban areas
- evaluating nutrient and water availability to crops
- managing soils for landscape design, mine reclamation, and site restoration
- regulating the use of land and soil resources by private and public interests