

CAREERS FOR

Earth & Planetary Sciences

MAJORS

Earth & Planetary Sciences involves the interdisciplinary scientific investigation of the Earth, other planetary bodies, and the solar system. Some focus areas include climatology, geochemistry, geophysics, structural geology and tectonics, environmental geology, planetary sciences, hydrology, mineralogy, and volcanology.

The [Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences](#) offers Bachelors of Science (B.S.) and Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degrees. The B.S. is intended for students who plan to pursue research careers and the B.A. is intended for students who plan to seek other careers related to Earth & Planetary Sciences. As an interdisciplinary science degree, it is also well suited for students pursuing careers in law, medicine, and politics.

UNM offers both a Master of Science (M.S.) and a PhD program In Earth & Planetary Sciences with solid foundations in both field and [laboratory](#) geosciences.

Industry Sectors & Job Titles

Energy, Mineral Resources, Consulting, Planetary Scientist, Astronomer, Astronaut, Oceanographer, Volcanologist, Seismologist, Environmental Geologist, Petroleum Scientist, Atmospheric Scientist/Meteorologist

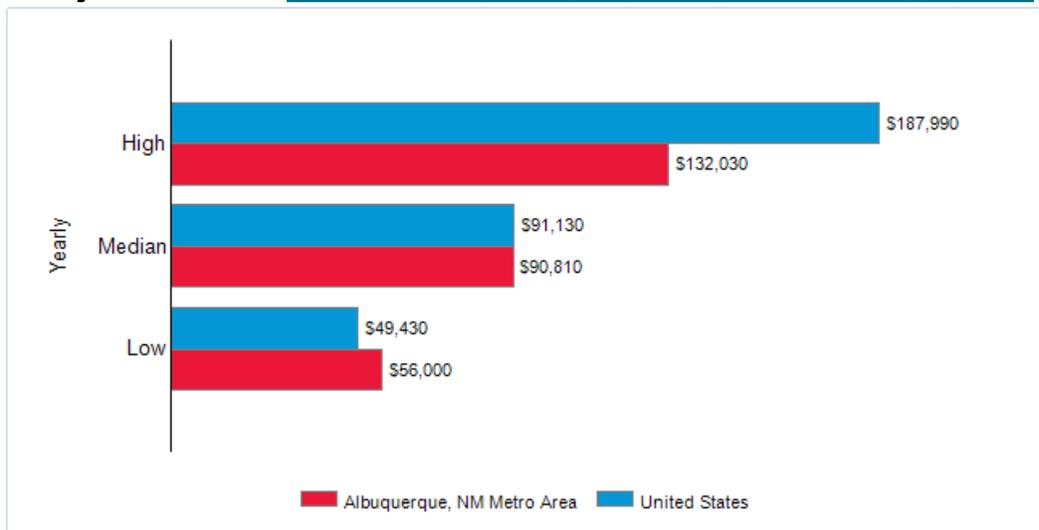
Government

Government labs, research scientists, national laboratories (Bachelor’s to PhD degrees depending on position)

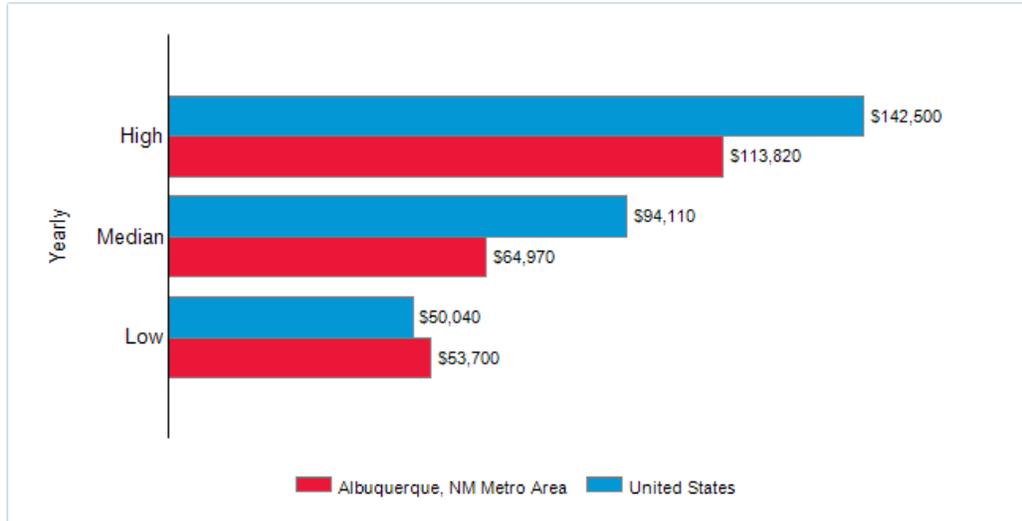
Academic

Faculty, Administration, and/or Research Scientist (PhD required)

Salary Information [Geoscientists, Except Hydrologists and Geographers](#)



Salary Information [Atmospheric and Space Scientists](#)



Sample list of employers

[NASA](#) /[Boeing](#) /[Goddard Institute](#) /[Lawrence Livermore National Lab](#)
[Los Alamos National Lab](#) /[Space Telescope Science Institute](#) /[Kennedy Space Center](#)
[Lockheed Martin](#) /[Leonardo DRS](#) /[Harris Corporation](#) /[Malin Space Science Systems](#)
[US Environmental Protection Agency](#) /[Argonne National Laboratory](#)

Tips

- Training on specific software, lab courses, and outdoor skills with camping and hiking will be useful for data and field work.
- Physical stamina to hike to remote locations for fieldwork while carrying equipment may be an important quality depending on your focus area.

Learn more

[Handshake: Lobo job & internship data base](#)
[O*NET: Geoscientists, Except Hydrologists and Geographers](#)
[Occupational Outlook Handbook: Geoscientists](#)
[Buzzfile: Employers of Geology & Earth Science majors](#)
[American Geophysical Union](#)
[The Geological Society of America](#)
[American Geosciences Institute](#)
[American Institute of Professional Geologists](#)
[National Ground Water Association](#)
[Geoscience Information Society](#)
[Soil Science Society of America](#)

[Student Activities Center](#): Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, UNM Geology Club, Geology & Environmental Science Club, Association of Geology Graduate Students, Society of Physics Students, Physics and Astronomy GSA