



# STEM Careers

## Hydrologist

**Job Description:** Research the distribution, circulation, and physical properties of underground and surface waters; study the form and intensity of precipitation, its rate of infiltration into the soil, movement through the earth, and its return to the ocean and atmosphere (the water cycle).

### What do Hydrologists do?

- Evaluate data and provide recommendations regarding hydroelectric power plants, irrigation systems, flood warning systems, and waste treatment facilities.
- Study and analyze the physical aspects of the earth in terms of the hydrological components, including atmosphere, hydrosphere, and interior structure.
- Administer programs designed to ensure the proper sealing of abandoned wells.
- Install, maintain, and calibrate instruments, such as those that monitor water levels, rainfall, and sediments.
- Answer questions and provide technical assistance and information to contractors or the public regarding issues such as well drilling, code requirements, hydrology, and geology.
- Measure and graph phenomena such as lake levels, stream flows, and changes in water volumes.
- Investigate properties, origins, and activities of glaciers, ice, snow, and permafrost.
- Apply research findings to help minimize the environmental impacts of pollution, waterborne diseases, erosion, and sedimentation.

### Your Interests:

- Do you enjoy science?
- Do you enjoy math?
- Would you like to make and study maps?
- Do you like to design things?

### Outlook: ~~Bright Outlook~~, Green Job

Average Salary - \$38.16 hourly, \$79,370 annual

Projected Job Openings - 800 over the next 10 years

### Education/Program of Study:

- Bachelor's Degree in Hydrology or a major that deals with hydrology plus additional coursework in geology or soil science.
- Many hydrologists also earn Master's or Doctoral degrees as well.

Sources:

[O\\*NET Online](#)