Wood Scientist

**Job Description:** Work in research or manufacturing to find efficient ways to convert forest resources into products.

**What does a Wood Scientist do?**

* Work for wood product firms, universities, or the government on research projects
* Be involved with developing new wood products and find more efficient ways to turn wood into products like lumber, plywood, wood plastics, chemicals, paper, and more
* Help design new methods such as cutting wood without producing sawdust
* Look at the chemical, biological, and physical properties of wood to work on ways to make them more durable and resistant to wear for longer use
* Make recommendations on which wood should be used for different products
* Experiment with different drying or curing methods to determine which save energy while toughening the wood
* Develop and improve ways to chemically treat wood

**Your Interests:**

* Are you interested in working with natural materials?
* Are you interested in researching new ways to make efficient, sustainable products from wood?
* Do you like chemistry and other natural sciences?

**Outlook: Green**

Average Salary - $30.12 hourly, $62,660 annual

Projected Job Openings – 2,300 over the next 10 years.

**Education/Program of Study:**

* A bachelor’s degree is required for these positions
  + Degrees can be in wood science, forest products, wood utilization, or other related areas