



# STEM Careers

## 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

Sources:

<http://career.iresearchnet.com/career-information/wood-science-technology-worker-career/>

<https://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/19-1031.00>