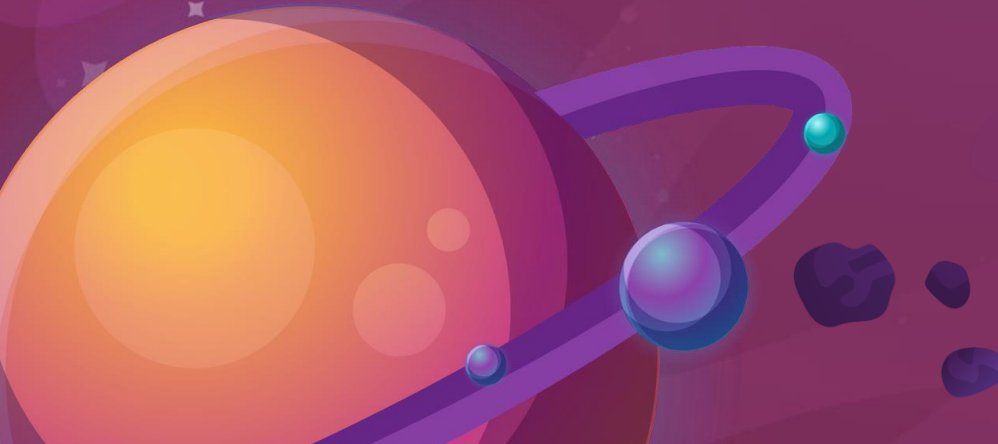


✦ Planetary Geologist

The study of planets, including within this solar system and exoplanets. This includes comparative geology (the study of the earth in comparison to other planetary processes), remote sensing, and multiple subdisciplines such as astrobiology and evolutionary sciences, geochemistry, seismology, etc.



Details

Positions in planetary geology often revolve solely around research, otherwise, there is the possibility of mechanics and laboratory work.

Planetary Geologists fall under two main categories in the US Bureau of Labor: Geoscientists & Physicists and Astronomers.

Industry and Openings:

Within these fields, positions can be acquired at Universities (upon researching these positions during 2023, William & Mary came up as a hiring position), NASA, private aerospace organizations (ex. Jacobs Aerospace Solutions), JPL, Observatories, etc.

Common requirements:

- At least a BS degree (many long-term positions require a doctorate)
- Experience/proficiency in remote sensing
- Proficient computer skills (programming)

Statistics (Physicists and Astronomers):

- median annual wage \$130k-\$150k; full range of \$60k - \$210k
- 8 percent growth rate by 2031 with ~2100 openings per year

Statistics (Geosciences):

- median annual wage \$84k; full range of \$50k - \$170k
- 5 percent growth by 2031 with ~2400 openings per year



WILLIAM
& MARY



JPL

Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology

References:

Planetary Geology Jobs, Employment
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Geoscientists : Occupational Outlook
Handbook: : U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
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Physicists and Astronomers : Occupational
Outlook Handbook: : U.S. Bureau of Labor
Statistics (bls.gov)

What Does a Planetary Geologist
Do? - Spiegato)

