

Career Building...

Career advice from AGU

MS or PhD – which is right for me?

<http://sites.agu.org/careers/2012/03/13/ms-vs-phd-which-is-right-for-me/>

Before you jump into any degree program, you need to have a goal. What kind of career do you desire? Do you want to work in academia or industry? Do you prefer research or public policy, teaching or outreach, or something else? Learn about career tracks that can be accessed by pursuing either an MS and a PhD in geosciences and related subjects. Which degree is needed for which career paths, and what benefits are provided by obtaining one degree over the other. Can a research career in particular can be achieved with simply an MS, and in what arenas this can be pursued?

[Read AGU's advice](#) on choosing the type of degree to match your career aims!

[View the slides](#) from the webinar on this topic.

Career advice from AGU

[Beyond the PhD: Career Opportunities and Planning Strategies for Geosciences Doctorates](#)

<http://sites.agu.org/careers/2012/05/25/beyond-the-phd-career-opportunities-and-planning-strategies-for-geosciences-doctorates/>

A PhD in Geosciences and related disciplines can open many doors for career opportunities, in realms, industries and organizations you might not have expected, even in this economic climate. The value of geosciences doctorates in industry and the many roles geosciences-educated professionals can play in traditional and non-traditional jobs in a multitude of arenas cannot be overemphasized.

[Read](#) Alaina Levine's answers to questions asked during the webinar!

[View](#) the webinar slides!

“Sowing now to reap later”

(Christopher, *Navigating Graduate School and Beyond*)

“Begin planning your career when you enter graduate school and be purpose driven in graduate school. This will help you achieve your career goals. Spend at least 1 hour per week deliberately mapping out strategies to achieve goals. ... In graduate school, build the assets you need to achieve your goals.”

Exercise: write a personal career development plan. Answer the questions:

1. Where do I want to be?
 - Short- and long-term career objectives
2. Where am I now?
 - SWOT: Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats
3. How am I going to get there?
 - Focus on one or two areas you want to develop

SWOT ANALYSIS

	Helpful to achieving the objective	Harmful to achieving the objective
Internal origin (attributes of the organization)	S Strengths	W Weaknesses
External origin (attributes of the environment)	O Opportunities	T Threats