

WHAT SORT OF JOB CAN I GET AFTER GRADUATE SCHOOL?

Most graduate students in the natural sciences become professors at teaching or research institutions and teach their own courses as well as research, write, and publish articles in their field of study. If teaching is not for you, the possibilities for employment with a Ph.D. are endless, including running a research group at a major pharmaceutical or industrial company, working for a biotechnical or other start-up company, or working on patent law for a company focused on scientific discovery.



“From climate change to water resources to energy, getting my Ph.D. in Geological Sciences has provided me with the skills to address some of our planet’s most pressing issues.”

— Everett Salas

Everett Salas is a doctoral candidate in Geological Sciences at the University of Southern California.

From here you can go anywhere...

WHAT CAN I DO NOW TO PREPARE?

Your academic career at USC will be crucial for both preparing you and for making you a competitive candidate for graduate school. It is a good idea to consider the various honors programs available in the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences.

Freshmen can participate in the Thematic Honors Program (www.usc.edu/dept/LAS/general_studies/TO/#program for details), and upperclassmen can participate in the Honors Programs offered by their individual departments, most of which require the completion of a senior thesis or independent project; students can inquire into their prospective departments for more information.

Once you decide you would like to pursue a Ph.D., there are some steps to take in your junior and senior years; these include conducting research and working with professors, applying for undergraduate research and fellowship programs, preparing for the GRE, writing a personal statement, researching schools, deciding if you want to take time off before graduate school, beginning the application process, and applying for outside graduate fellowships. This may sound overwhelming, but there are many people who are willing to help you. For more details on the steps to take, visit www.usc.edu/gradad.

If you are a current undergraduate from an underrepresented group interested in pursuing graduate education in the natural sciences, here are some opportunities to take advantage of at USC:

Student Opportunities for Academic Research (SOAR):
www.usc.edu/dept/LAS/general_studies/soar

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program (MMUF):
www.usc.edu/student-affairs/MMUF

Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program:
www.usc.edu/programs/mcnair

Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Undergraduate Research Fellowship:
www.usc.edu/programs/wise/programs

Summer Undergraduate Research Funds (SURF):
www.usc.edu/dept/LAS/general_studies/soar/surf.html

For additional research opportunities for undergraduates at and outside of USC, visit www.usc.edu/programs/agoprograms/agresearch

Graduate Education *in the* Natural Sciences



Think about the possibilities...