



Great Lakes Science Center Employment Opportunities

The USGS Great Lakes Science Center is dedicated to providing scientific information for restoring, enhancing, managing, and protecting living resources and their habitats in the Great Lakes region. The USGS Great Lakes Science Center is headquartered in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and has biological stations and research vessels located across the Great Lakes Basin.



"Working as a student for the **USGS** is an excellent way for anybody interested in working in a science field to 'get their foot in the door.'"
~Travis Gibson, Hydrological Technician



Be our future . . . Join USGS

So, you are interested in an aquatic sciences career? You've made an excellent choice! Some of the many positions available to those interested in the aquatic sciences are: fishery biologist, marine biologist, ecologist, geneticist, park naturalist, conservation officer, oceanographer, fish culturist, land and water steward, limnologist, marine geologist, animal behaviorist, civil engineer, chemist, professor, statistician, hatchery manager, technical writer, and laboratory technician.

Read on to learn more about careers in the aquatic sciences and positions with the USGS Great Lakes Science Center (GLSC). Contact information is on the reverse.

Preparing for a Career in Aquatic Sciences

Here is some advice on how to best prepare for a career in the aquatic sciences.

In high school, focus on the "3 R's" . . . reading, writing, and arithmetic. Make sure you have four years of science, math, and English, plus electives in foreign languages, geography, and government. Remember, the better your grades, the better you look to college admissions offices. AP classes are highly advantageous, if available. By scoring well on AP exams, you may place out of certain basic, required college freshman courses, freeing up time in your schedule and allowing you to focus on classes more in line with your career objectives.

In college, take a mix of the following courses: calculus, statistics, biology,

zoology, botany, physics, ecology, geology, physiology, genetics, general chemistry, organic chemistry, computer science, public policy, foreign languages, humanities, and English composition and literature. Your college advisor will help you plan for the courses you will need.

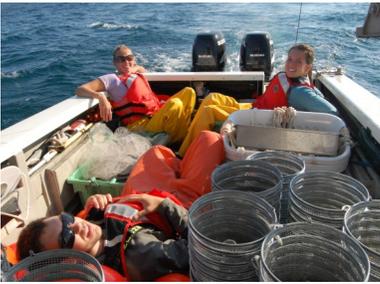
As a student, gain experience by working in labs, as assistants for graduate students, or as interns. Involvement in clubs and professional associations relating to your area of interest is also beneficial. Keep track of work and volunteer opportunities and record supervisors' names, starting and ending dates, and duties for all positions. Remember, you may need to ask these supervisors for references in the future. The important thing? Gain as much career-related experience as you can!

6 Career Opportunities for You!

Volunteer positions: A variety can be found by contacting the GLSC directly. For regularly updated, nation-wide opportunities with the USGS, see "Websites to Consider" on the reverse.

Pathways Programs: A newer USGS program with opportunities for both students and recent graduates. For current students, Pathways Internship Program replaces the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) and Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP). This new program provides students in high schools, colleges, trade schools, and other qualifying educational institutions with paid opportunities to work in agencies and explore Federal careers while completing their education. Skills needed depend on the





What Aquatic Scientists Really Do:

- Make a difference in the Great Lakes and beyond
- Travel the globe for research
- Interact with wildlife
- Explore oceans and the Great Lakes
- Get dirty in the field and make new discoveries in the lab
- Work in remote locations or populated areas
- Promote biodiversity
- Conserve natural resources
- Improve habitat management
- Use cutting edge technologies
- Develop new technologies
- Work with skillful people
- Help local communities
- Educate others
- Expand scientific knowledge through publications
- Change how people view their home ecosystems!

Pathways announcement (whether it's Administrative, Biological Technician, Information Technician, etc).

The Pathways Internship Program has two types of Internship appointments: (1) temporary student appointment, not to exceed 1 year, to complete temporary or short-term projects; or (2) student appointment for an initial period expected to last more than 1 year and which may lead to permanent employment. Internships are competitive and posted online at USAJOBS.gov. Preference is given to veterans in the application pool. Over 1200 students participate in the USGS Pathways program annually and around 10-15% become permanent employees upon completion of the program.

Pathways also offers the Recent Graduates Program for individuals who have completed a qualifying associate's, bachelor's, master's, professional, doctorate, vocational or technical degree or certificate educational program within the preceding 2 years (exceptions made for certain veterans).

Other student positions: The GLSC Headquarters in Ann Arbor, MI participates in a work study agreement with the University of Michigan. We employ up to 20 students per semester under this cooperative program. By working with research scientists and professionals, students can pay for their education and gain valuable experience. In addition, the GLSC's Lake Superior Biological Station, located in Ashland, Wisconsin, participates in a work study agreement with Northland College.

The USGS also partners with Americorps through the Environmental Stewards program. Student participants can volunteer in USGS offices (such as the GLSC). Americorps participants receive benefits,

including a stipend for education upon successful completion of the program.

Temporary positions: Competitive and non-competitive 180 day appointments with a federal agency. These positions have specific expiration dates, though extensions can be made. Competitive positions are advertised through USAJOBS.

Term positions: Competitive 13 month - 4 year appointments with a federal agency that can be renewed. These positions are common within the GLSC and advertised through USAJOBS.

Permanent positions: Competitive, permanent appointments with a federal agency that may qualify a person for the complete federal benefits package; advertised through USAJOBS.

Federal Pay Scale

Though not guaranteed, the following is a general outline of education required for different pay grades within the federal government. Pay grades may be higher if applicant has previous experience in addition to education:

- BA (up to GS-5): \$22,092 - \$34,039*
- MA (GS-7): \$42,165*
- PhD (GS-11): \$62,401*

*Values are for Step 1 within each pay grade and based on the 2012 scale for Detroit-Warren-Flint, MI area.

GLSC Contacts

Curtis Hoelsing
Administrative Officer
Email: choelsing@usgs.gov

Josh Miller
Science Communications Liaison
Email: joshuamiller@usgs.gov

Websites to Consider (ctrl + click on hyperlink):

- USGS Volunteer Opportunities: <http://www.volunteer.gov/index.cfm>
- USGS Career and Student Opportunities Site: education.usgs.gov/careers.html
- USGS Internship, Employment Opportunities, and Research Grants: pubs.usgs.gov/gip/114-v2.1/
- Pathways Program for Students: www.usgs.gov/ohr/students/
- Pathways Program for Recent Graduates: www.usgs.gov/humancapital/sw/graduateprogram.html
- Pathways Position Postings: www.usajobs.gov/StudentsAndGrads
- Temporary and Term Positions Information: help.usajobs.gov/index.php/Temporary_%26_Term
- Permanent Positions Information: help.usajobs.gov/index.php/Pay_and_Benefits
- Federal Pay: www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/2012/general-schedule/
- USAJOBS Positions Postings: www.usajobs.gov
- Americorps: www.americorps.gov/



Great Lakes Science Center
1451 Green Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

(734) 994-3331
www.glsc.usgs.gov
GLSC 2012-3

