

## Skills and Knowledge Needed

### Knowledge

Biology  
Chemistry  
Mathematics  
Education/Training  
Computers & Electronics  
Communications & Media  
Geography  
Physics

### Work Styles

Attention to Detail  
Integrity  
Initiative  
Dependability  
Independence  
Persistence  
Adaptability  
Innovation

### Skills/Abilities

Science (rules & methods)  
Active Listening  
Critical Thinking

### Communication Skills

Judgment & Decision Making  
Reading Comprehension  
Complex Problem Solving  
Active Learning  
Systems Analysis  
Writing  
Reasoning  
Observation



## Make soil part of your life.

Learn more about careers in soil science at:  
[www.soils.org/careers](http://www.soils.org/careers)

### Sources/Career Sites

**USDA-NRCS website:**  
<http://soils.usda.gov/education/facts/careers.html>

**Soil Science Society of America**  
[www.soils.org/careers](http://www.soils.org/careers) | [www.soils4teachers.org](http://www.soils4teachers.org)



5585 Guilford Road • Madison, WI 53711-5801  
608-273-8080 • [www.soils.org](http://www.soils.org)

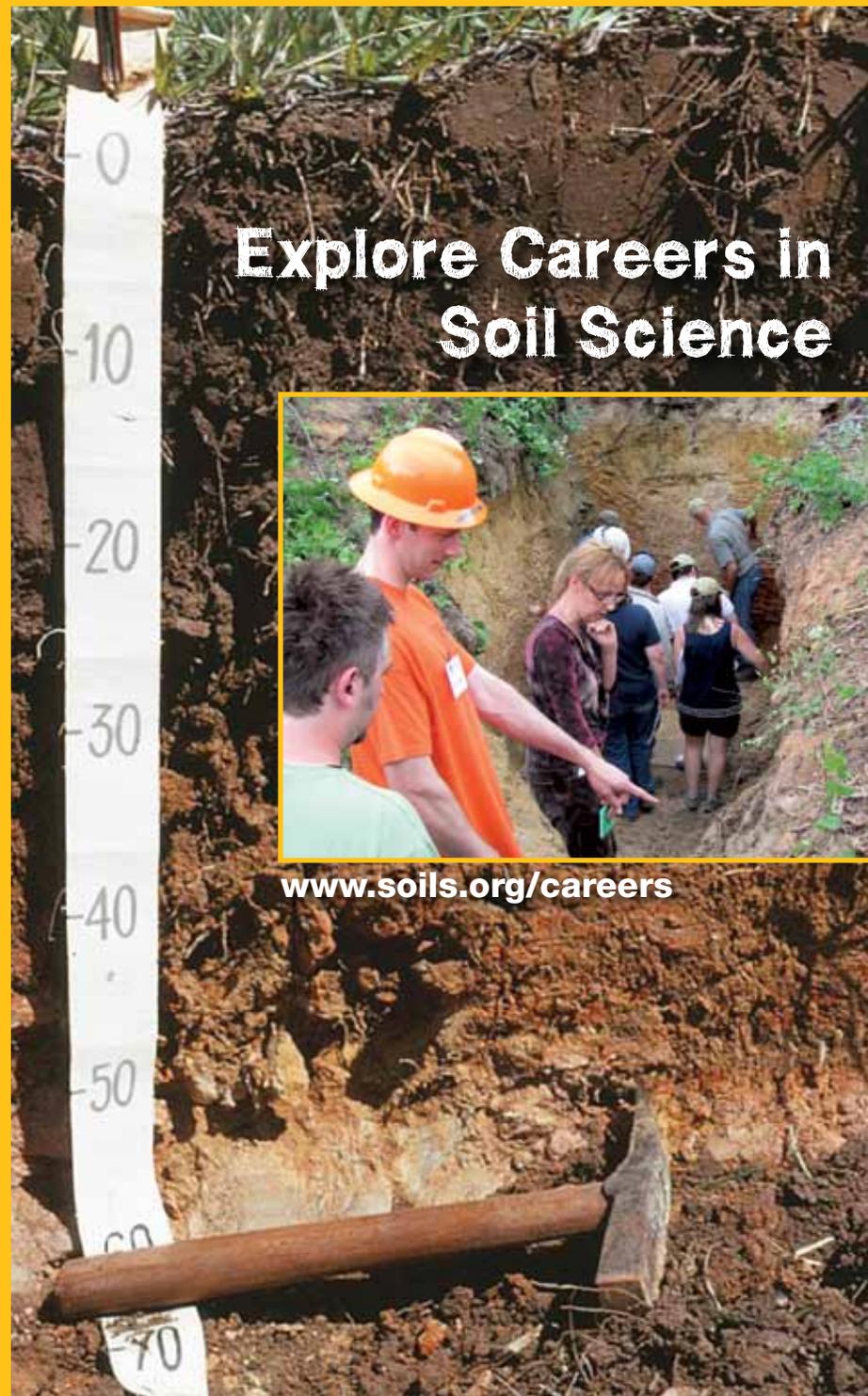
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## Explore Careers in Soil Science



[www.soils.org/careers](http://www.soils.org/careers)





**Soil scientists** explore and seek to understand the earth's land and water resources. Students of soil science learn to identify, interpret, and manage soils for agriculture, forestry, rangeland, ecosystems, urban uses, and mining and reclamation in an environmentally responsible way. Graduates can choose from a range of excellent professional opportunities and challenging careers.

### People who become soil scientists...

- have a love of science
- enjoy working outdoors
- have an enthusiasm for maps and relationships in nature
- desire to be integral in environmental decisions related to soil conservation, land use, water quality, or waste management
- have a willingness to communicate their knowledge about soils and the environment to all aspects of our society

### Soil science . . .

- encompasses biology, ecology, and a variety of earth and other natural resource sciences.
- interfaces with geology and geography.
- focuses on understanding, managing, and improving land and water.

- uses chemistry, physics, microbiology, and mathematics, as well as high technology tools for soil exploration, analysis, data interpretation, and modeling of soil and landscape processes.
- integrates concerns for people, food production, and the environment.

### Soil scientists. . .

- bring science and technology to issues involving soil and water resources.
- are well versed in the natural sciences.
- play key roles in public and private decisions related to soil and water resources.
- are employed in the private sector with environmental and agricultural consulting firms.
- are employed with U.S. government and international agencies.
- may attend graduate school in soil science or closely related environmental, natural resource, or agricultural sciences.

### Soil scientists may work on. . .

- conducting research in public and private research institutions
- managing soils for crop production, forest products and erosion control management.
- teaching in colleges and universities
- predicting the effect of land management options on natural resources
- helping to design hydrologic plans in suburban areas
- evaluating nutrient and water availability to crops
- managing soils for landscape design, mine reclamation, and site restoration
- regulating the use of land and soil resources by private and public interests

**Civilization itself  
rests upon the Soil.**

**Thomas Jefferson**