

Corporate geoscientists, relative to their academic counterparts

Traditional academic geoscientist *

Ph.D. required

. . . and post-doctoral position(s) commonly a de-facto requirement.

Skeptic

Scientist is trained to question his or her own hypotheses.

Publication expected

Scientist is expected to publish new findings promptly and regularly ("publish or perish").

Less management

Choice of research is up to scientist. "What are you going to do (or did you do) this year?" is a common question from Head.

Little internal support

Scientist is expected to perform all tasks associated with job, and his or her time is assumed to be infinite.

Research self-supported

Scientist is expected to obtain external funding for research. Failure to obtain external funding can be grounds for dismissal.

Continuing education self-funded

Attendance at meetings or short courses is funded by scientist, who will have to justify his or her absence from work place.

Moderately paid

Salary is that of History professors, not that of industry professionals.

Promotion independent of management role

Scientist is hired for teaching and research, with no stated expectation of transition to management (.e.g., head/dean-ship). Promotion and transition to management are unrelated things.

Long-term post-tenure security *

After five to seven years, scientist is either fired or is given a position from which dismissal requires evidence of cause.

Corporate geoscientist

M.S. required and preferred

Ph.D.s are commonly viewed as hyperspecialized and/or obsessive.

Advocate

Explorationist is expected to be judicious advocate of prospects.

Confidentiality expected

All findings are property of employer, and revealing them is considered a breach of ethics and a legal offense. "What are you working on these days?" is a question to which evasive responses are required.

Close management as employee

Work focus and goals are assigned by management and may undergo major change in one day.

Time valuable

Company views scientist's time as valuable to company, and has staff to do non-technical tasks.

Research company-supported

Company funds activity. Explorationist is not told "go get the money to drill your prospect".

Continuing education supported

Corporation provides at least some training.

Well paid

Starting salary for a former student becoming an employee is commonly that of his or her full professors.

Management role expected

Company looks at all applicants as potential management, and advancement or promotion is largely or solely to positions involving management of other employees.

Job loss possible every day

Every day, scientist may be told to remove personal possessions from office and leave building while escorted by a security guard.

* Note that tenure-track employment is increasingly scarce for economic reasons and increasingly questioned for political reasons. That trend, combined with the growth of online education and

the demise of state research universities, may in the 21st century make the entire left side of this document solely of historical interest.