How to Become an Oceanographer

Most oceanography jobs require a PhD however there are opportunities to work in the field in a variety of support positions.

Examples:
- technician
- computer specialist
- research assistant

During your masters and PhD you will want to focus more on the specific aspects of oceanography that you are interested in.

* Different organizations may have more or less requirements for oceanography jobs. This is a generalized example to get you started on the right path.
**Oceanographer Description:**
There are different aspects of oceanography that are studied and can be divided into three categories: chemical, geological, and physical. Chemical oceanographers study the elements of seawater and sediments and how the chemical composition interacts with biological, geological, and physical factors. Geological oceanographers study the composition of the sea floor and its makeup. Physical oceanographers study the physical properties and movement of the ocean along with the relationship between the sea, land, and climate. Oceanographers can work in a variety of settings including research at sea or in a lab, teaching, and doing write up work in an office.

**Pay Range:**
$35,000 - $70,000 starting

**Location:**
Throughout Alaska

**A few organizations that hire oceanographers:**
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Environmental groups
- Consulting agencies
- Universities

**Schools in Alaska that offer degrees for oceanography careers:**
- University Alaska Fairbanks
- University of Anchorage
- University of Alaska Southeast
- Alaska Pacific University
- Prince William Sound Community College
- Kenai Peninsula College

**Places to find more information:**
- Organizations websites
- Future Alaskans Website - summer opportunities, internships, camps, jobs, etc. (http://www.sfos.uaf.edu/future)
- Job boards (some examples):
  - http://www.jobs.state.ak.us
  - http://www.sfos.uaf.edu/jobs
  - http://www.alaskajobfinder.com