

How to Become an Oceanographer

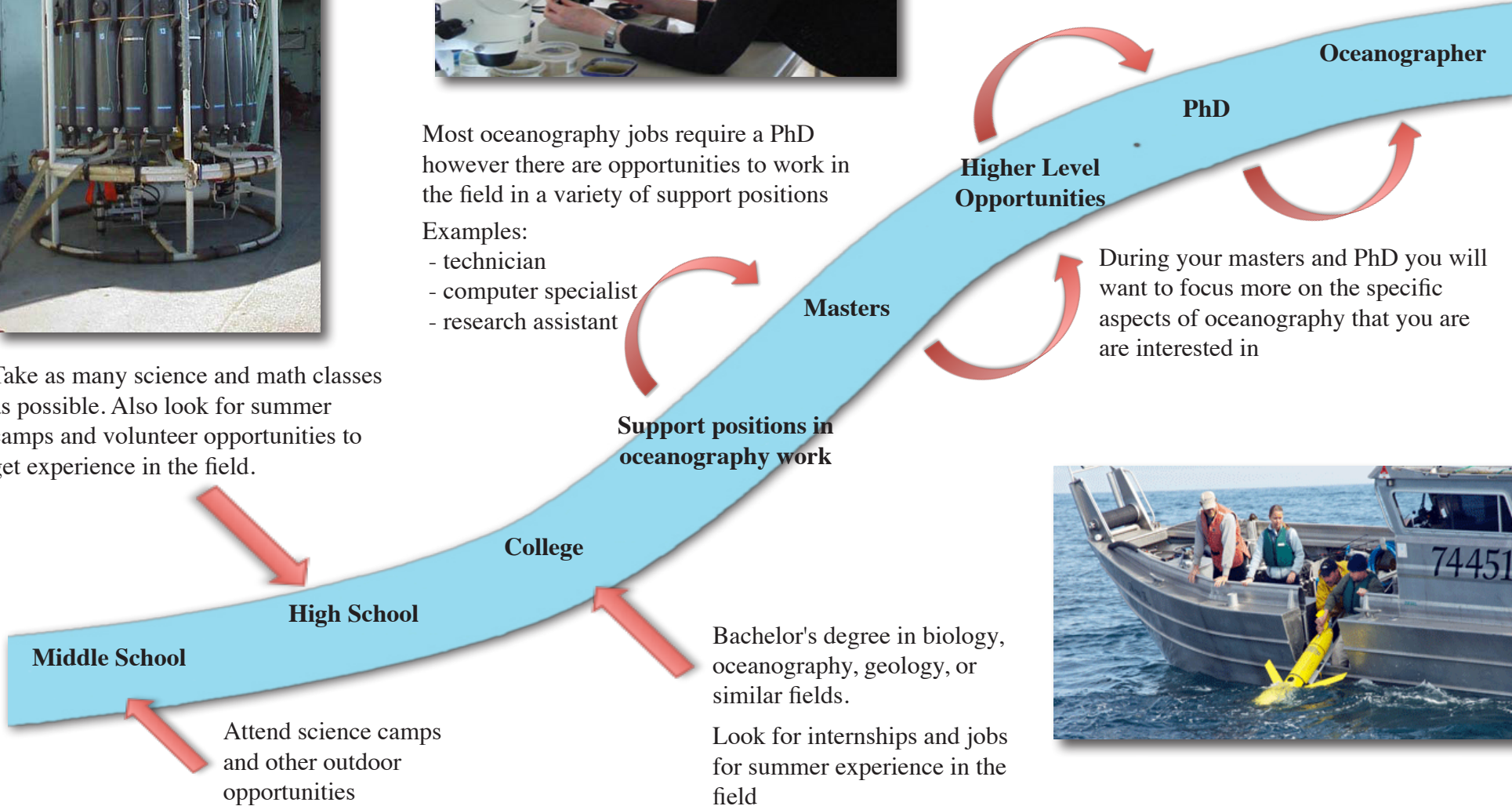


If you like working in a variety of places, enjoy math and science, are interested in the properties of the ocean, and have initiative you might want to be an Oceanographer.

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

Take as many science and math classes as possible. Also look for summer camps and volunteer opportunities to get experience in the field.



* 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

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



A few organizations that hire oceanographers:

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Environmental groups
- Consulting agencies
- Universities



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>