



# CLIMATE SCIENTIST

**Shifting weather patterns threaten global food production—you could help solve it.**

## WHAT IT IS

Imagine using science to protect the world's food supply as the climate changes around us. Climate scientists in agriculture do just that by studying long-term weather patterns to understand how climate affects the food we grow. When droughts shrink harvests, floods wash away crops, or heat waves disrupt growing seasons, climate scientists help explain why these changes are happening. Climate scientists work with farmers, communities, and policymakers to develop climate-smart ways to grow food, manage water, and care for the land—helping ensure a stable food supply in a changing climate.

## A DAY IN THE LIFE

As a climate scientist, your work may take you from the lab to the field, and your day may include:

- Analyzing climate, weather, and environmental data from weather stations, satellites, and maps
- Using computer models to explore future climate scenarios and their impacts on crops, water, or regions
- Studying how climate change affects agriculture, ecosystems, and natural resources
- Working in different places—offices, labs, classrooms, and sometimes out in the field
- Meeting with farmers, community leaders, or policymakers to help plan climate-smart solutions
- Teaching, mentoring students, or presenting research to schools and community groups
- Collaborating with scientists across the country or traveling to conferences and research sites

### READY FOR SUCCESS

Your success in this field starts with a passion for understanding how Earth works. Take every geography and environmental science class you can; if those aren't available, dive into math, physics, and chemistry—these subjects are the building blocks of climate science. Discover your strengths and interests and seek out mentors who will push you to grow. Whenever you can, volunteer or intern with a scientist to experience the work firsthand.

Climate scientists are expert pattern-finders and problem-solvers. They work with data, connect ideas across different fields, and communicate clearly so their research sparks real action. The challenges are huge—but so is the impact you can make.

### EDUCATION REQUIRED

This career is rooted in exploring subjects that help understand big questions about weather, land, and climate patterns. **In college, many bioinformatics scientists major in:**

- **Agronomy**
- **Crop or Soil Science**
- **Geography**
- **Environmental Science**
- **Chemistry**
- **Physics**

Strong math skills are essential, along with courses in meteorology, oceanography, and statistics. A bachelor's degree is the starting point and many climate scientists go on to earn a master's degree or Ph.D., especially for research, teaching, or advanced scientific roles.

### GETTING STARTED

Crush your STEM courses. Look for summer programs at universities or environmental organizations. Join environmental clubs. Follow climate scientists on social media. Research universities with strong atmospheric science programs. During college, pursue internships at government agencies or research labs.



GROW BY  
**8%**  
UNTIL 2030

#### JOB OUTLOOK

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports this field will experience an 8% growth in employment now through 2030



**\$92K**  
AS OF 2026

#### AVERAGE SALARY

As of 2026, the average annual pay for a Climate Scientist in the United States is \$92,262 a year, according to ZipRecruiter.