Objective

Photographers use their technical expertise, creativity, and composition skills to produce and preserve images that visually tell a story or record an event

Duties

Photographers typically do the following:

•Market and advertise services to attract clients

•Analyze and decide how to compose a subject

•Use various photographic techniques and equipment

•Capture subjects in commercial-quality photographs

•Enhance the subject’s appearance with natural or artificial light

•Use photo enhancing software

•Maintain a digital portfolio, often on a website, to demonstrate work

Education

Although postsecondary education is not required for most photographers, many take classes or earn a bachelor’s degree in a related field, which can improve their skills and employment prospects.

**Landscape Photographer**

Many universities, community and junior colleges, vocational–technical institutes, and private trade and technical schools offer classes in photography. Basic courses in photography cover equipment, processes, and techniques. Art schools may offer useful training in photographic design and composition.

Entry-level positions in photojournalism or in industrial or scientific photography generally require a college degree in photography or in a field related to the industry in which the photographer seeks employment. For example, classes in biology, medicine, or chemistry may be useful for scientific photographers.

Business, marketing, and accounting classes can be helpful for self-employed photographers.

SALARY

The median hourly wage for photographers was $13.70 in May 2012. The median wage is the wage at which half the workers in an occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. The lowest 10 percent earned less than $8.42, and the top 10 percent earned more than $32.21