

## Planets are Interdisciplinary - Transcript

**Kimberly Cartier (0:07):** How does a planet work? If you ask an astronomer, a geologist, a biologist, and a physicist, you'll get at least four different answers. I'm Kimberly Cartier with *Eos*. For our August career issue, I spoke with planetary scientist Edgard Rivera-Valentín about how they approach learning about the complicated, interconnected systems that we call planets.

**Edgard Rivera-Valentín (0:35):** I did my doctoral degree in space and planetary sciences at the University of Arkansas. The reason I ended up choosing that program was because the curriculum was very interdisciplinary. So there aren't many universities that offer a degree in planetary science. Those that do, they typically either offer it from a physics or a geology or an astronomy department. But rarely is there a standalone planetary science department. And as someone who had just finished their physics bachelor's degree, I wanted the opportunity to get involved with all the different types of sciences that are really needed to understand planets as a whole system. And at Arkansas, the cool thing about that program was that you had to pretty much take a class in every department that was part of the core program. So I had to take a class in geology, in physics, astronomy, engineering, biology, and chemistry. That let me see how everything came together into this one cohesive story and to understand planets as a system. Personally, I think more programs should follow this type of model and start working to be more interdisciplinary.

**Kimberly Cartier (1:55):** You can learn more about Edgard's career path on [Eos.org](https://eos.org), and explore how other people pursued their geoscience dreams in our August career issue and online throughout the month.