Geoscience, B.A.

Learning Outcomes

Geoscience B.A. graduates will:

• understand the structure, composition, and physical processes of the Earth;
• understand the coevolution of the Earth-Life System;
• have experience interpreting the geologic record in the field;
• understand natural resources and resource sustainability; and
• develop a quantitative analytical skill set to integrate the diverse array of Earth sciences and related disciplines.

Overview

The B.A. in geoscience offers students a background in the Earth sciences and related scientific disciplines, and is designed for flexibility in potential career paths. The department focuses training in the areas of environmental geology, geochemistry, geophysics, paleontology, stratigraphy, tectonics, basin analysis, surficial processes, petrology, and volcanology. Students gain field experience along with classroom learning.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in geoscience requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 55 s.h. of work for the major (at least 39 s.h. in earth and environmental sciences courses and at least 16 s.h. in supporting disciplines). Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core. Transfer students must complete a minimum of 15 s.h. of course work in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences.

The geoscience major for the B.A. is designed to provide students with a varied background in geology and a broader choice of electives than is practical in the Bachelor of Science program. It is intended for students who are interested in the fundamentals of geology or earth science teaching (see "Teacher Licensure" below). Completing the minimum requirements for this degree may not adequately prepare a student for an entry-level professional job in geology.

The department recommends that students fulfill the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement with French, German, Russian, or Spanish and the Social Sciences requirement with approved course work in economics, geography, or anthropology.

The B.A. with a major in geoscience requires the following course work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Earth and Environmental Sciences Required Courses</td>
<td>24-28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Earth and Environmental Sciences Electives</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mathematics Courses</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chemistry Courses</td>
<td>6-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Field Requirement</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>55-62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Earth and Environmental Sciences Required Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>These two:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:2200</td>
<td>Historical Geology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:2410</td>
<td>Mineralogy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One of these:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:1030</td>
<td>Introduction to Earth Science</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:1050</td>
<td>Introduction to Geology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One or both of these:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:1040</td>
<td>Evolution and the History of Life</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:3210</td>
<td>Principles of Paleontology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At least three of these:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:3300</td>
<td>Sedimentary Geology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:3360</td>
<td>Soil Genesis and Geomorphology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:3380</td>
<td>Fluvial Geomorphology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:3500</td>
<td>Igneous and Metamorphic Petrology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:3840</td>
<td>Structural Geology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:4630</td>
<td>Hydrogeology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>And:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Earth and environmental sciences electives numbered EES:3000 or above</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mathematics

Students must complete the following course work in mathematics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>College-level mathematics (may include computer science and statistics)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chemistry

Students must complete at least two college-level chemistry courses as a sequence, as follows. Chemistry courses numbered below CHEM:1070 General Chemistry I do not count toward this requirement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One of these sequences:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM:1070 &amp; CHEM:1080</td>
<td>General Chemistry I-II</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM:1110 &amp; CHEM:1120</td>
<td>Principles of Chemistry I-II</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Field Requirement

To complete the major, students must have field experience. They may take at least 4 s.h. of EES:1180 Geology Field Trip: Selected National Parks and/or EES:3160 Geology Field Trip to satisfy this requirement. Either course may be repeated and/or combined to fulfill the necessary semester hours. Or they may take one semester of EES:2831 Geologic Field Methods or the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory session.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EES:1180</td>
<td>Geology Field Trip: Selected National Parks</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:2831</td>
<td>Geologic Field Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Independent Research Option for Geoscience Majors

A junior or senior who is ready to pursue independent research for credit in geoscience may assist a faculty member or graduate student with a current research project in EES:2190 Directed Study or may initiate a small-scale project involving a combination of field, laboratory, and library investigation in EES:3190 Directed Study. Independent study is encouraged and may lead to an honors thesis in EES:4999 Honors Thesis in Geoscience or a senior thesis in EES:4990 Senior Thesis in Geoscience that may be published subsequently.

Teacher Licensure

Majors interested in earning licensure to teach in elementary and/or secondary schools must complete the College of Education's Teacher Education Program (TEP) in addition to the requirements for the major and all requirements for graduation. The TEP requires several College of Education courses and student teaching. Contact the Office of Student Services in the College of Education for details.

Students must satisfy all degree requirements and complete TEP licensure before degree conferral.

Students with a strong interest in science teaching may complete a science education major. Students choose one of five emphases—biology, chemistry, earth science, physics, or all-science—and earn a Bachelor of Science degree. They may apply for admission to the TEP. See the B.S. in science education in the Teaching and Learning (College of Education) section of the Catalog.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Departmental honors students must maintain a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 3.33 in all University of Iowa course work and in all geoscience courses. Students must complete a senior thesis, registering in EES:4999 Honors Thesis in Geoscience. They must obtain approval of their honors thesis contract from their advisor and the department's undergraduate committee, and they must earn a grade of B or higher in EES:4999.

National Honor Society

The department sponsors a chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon National Honor Society for the Earth Sciences. Students with an overall g.p.a. of at least 2.80 and at least 3.20 in geoscience courses are considered for membership after they have completed a minimum of 16 s.h. of course work in geoscience. Consult the departmental honors advisor for more information.

University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program; visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the University’s honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the geoscience major.

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University's Four-Year Graduation Plan. Courses in the major are those required to complete the major; they may be offered by departments other than the major department.

These checkpoints show the range of required course work; the Bachelor of Arts requires a minimum of 17 courses.

The major requires field trip experiences, many of which take place during breaks in or between semesters or during the summer session. These checkpoints do not include the field trip requirements.

Before the third semester begins: competence in math through trigonometry and the first required chemistry course

Before the fifth semester begins: three to five courses in the major, including the remainder of the chemistry requirement and continuation of the mathematics requirement

Before the seventh semester begins: 7-11 courses in the major and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree

Before the eighth semester begins: 10-14 courses in the major

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining course work in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Academic Career</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any Semester</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research: students are strongly encouraged to be active participants in research within the department.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>While only one field course is required, students are encouraged to participate in additional field experiences, whenever possible.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EES:1050 or EES:1030</td>
<td>Introduction to Geology or Introduction to Earth Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM:1070</td>
<td>General Chemistry I a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200</td>
<td>Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major: math/statistics/computer science course a, b</td>
<td>3 - 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Elective course
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts numbered 3000 or above
Major: geoscience elective course prefix EES numbered 3000 or above

Fall
Fourth Year
Elective course
Proficiency or elective course
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences
Major: geoscience "choose three" course

Spring
Major: geoscience elective course prefix EES numbered 3000 or above
Major: geoscience elective course prefix EES numbered 3000 or above
Elective course
Elective course
Elective course
Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall)

Hours 15-17
Total Hours 119-140

Spring
Major: geoscience "choose three" course
Major: geoscience "choose three" course
Major: math/statistics/computer science course
GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level
Proficiency or elective course

Second Year
Fall
EES:2410 Mineralogy 4
EES:1040 or EES:3210 Evolution and the History of Life or Principles of Paleontology 4
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level
Proficiency or elective course

EES:2831 Geologic Field Methods 3

Summer
EES:2831 Geologic Field Methods 3

EES:1040 Evolution and the History of Life 3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives 3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level 4 - 5
Proficiency or elective course 3 - 4

Spring
Major: geoscience "choose three" course
Major: math/statistics/computer science course
GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level
Proficiency or elective course

Third Year
Fall
Major: geoscience "choose three" course
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level
Proficiency or elective course
Elective course
Elective course

Spring
Major: geoscience "choose three" course
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level
Proficiency or elective course
Elective course
Elective course

Fourth Year
Fall
Major: geoscience elective course prefix EES numbered 3000 or above
Major: geoscience elective course prefix EES numbered 3000 or above
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts
Elective course
Elective course

Career Advancement
The B.A. in geoscience is designed to prepare students for employment after graduation or for admission to graduate study in an allied field of earth and environmental sciences, such as public policy, environmental engineering, law, business, archaeology, or science education. Nearly all University of Iowa geoscience graduates gain employment or move on to graduate programs following completion of their degree. Graduates are typically employed in environmental corporations or consulting agencies; nongovernmental organizations; law firms; and local, state, and federal agencies, in career fields that include education, conservation, urban planning, natural resources, and water resource management.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.