Geoscience, B.A.

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.

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.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in geoscience requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 56 s.h. of work for the major (at least 37 s.h. in earth and environmental sciences courses, at least 16 s.h. in supporting disciplines, and a field requirement course). 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 coursework 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 coursework in economics, geography, or anthropology.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EES:2200</td>
<td>Historical Geology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Mineralogy</td>
<td>4</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>EES:3360</td>
<td>Sedimentary Geology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:3380</td>
<td>Soil Genesis and Geomorphology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:3500</td>
<td>Igneous and Metamorphic Petrology</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>EES:3600</td>
<td>Structural Geology</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>EES:4630</td>
<td>Hydrogeology</td>
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Earth and Environmental Sciences Required Courses

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Mathematics

Students must complete the following coursework in mathematics.

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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>MATH:1210</td>
<td>College-level mathematics (may include computer science and statistics), excluding</td>
<td>10</td>
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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.

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<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM:1070</td>
<td>General Chemistry I-II</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM:1110</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 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.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EES:1180</td>
<td>Geology Field Trip: Selected National Parks</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
honors in the geoscience major.
Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the geoscience major.

**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**

Students interested in teaching in elementary and/or secondary schools should seek admission to the Teacher Education Program (TEP) in the College of Education.

To qualify for licensure in secondary teaching, students in the TEP complete a degree in education as well as a related College of Liberal Arts and Sciences degree. See Teacher Education Program Application and Admission on the College of Education website for details on requirements and deadlines for applying to the College of Education and about TEP choices of majors leading to licensure.

**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 coursework 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 coursework 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.

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**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.

**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 coursework. 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 coursework 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.

**Geoscience, B.A.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>EES:2831</td>
<td>Geologic Field Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:3160</td>
<td>Field Trip</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
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</table>

One natural science session at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory for a minimum of 3 s.h.

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**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.
While only one field course is required, students are encouraged to participate in additional field experiences, whenever possible.

**First Year**

**Fall**
- EES:1030 or EES:1050: Introduction to Earth Science \( ^a \) or Introduction to Geology \( ^a \) 4
- CHEM:1070: General Chemistry I \( ^a \) 3
- ENGL:1200 or RHE:1030: The Interpretation of Literature \( ^b \) or Rhetoric \( ^b \) 3 - 4
- Major: math/statistics/computer science course \( ^a, b \) 3 - 4
- CSI:1600: Success at Iowa 2

**Hours**: 15-17

**Spring**
- EES:2200: Historical Geology 4
- CHEM:1080: General Chemistry II 3
- RHE:1030 or ENGL:1200: Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature \( ^b \) 3 - 4
- Major: math/statistics/computer science course \( ^b \) 3 - 4
- GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion \( ^c \) 3

**Hours**: 16-18

**Second Year**

**Fall**
- EES:2410: Mineralogy 4
- EES:3210 or EES:1040: Principles of Paleontology \( ^d \) or Evolution and the History of Life 4
- Major: math/statistics/computer science course \( ^b \) 4
- GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level 4 - 5
- Proficiency or elective course \( ^e \)

**Hours**: 16-17

**Spring**
- Major: geoscience "choose three" course \( ^f \) 3 - 4
- GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives \( ^c \) 3
- GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture \( ^c \) 3
- GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level 4 - 5
- Proficiency or elective course \( ^e \)
- EES:2001: Second-Year Field Trip for Earth and Environmental Sciences \( ^g \) 1

**Hours**: 14-16

**Summer**
- EES:2831: Geologic Field Methods \( ^h \) 3

**Hours**: 3

**Third Year**

**Fall**
- Major: geoscience "choose three" course \( ^f \) 3 - 4
- GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues \( ^c \) 3
- GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level 4 - 5
- Proficiency or elective course \( ^e \)
- Elective course \( ^i \) 3
- Elective course \( ^i \) 1 - 3
- EES:3001: Third-Year Field Trip for Earth and Environmental Sciences \( ^g \) 1

**Hours**: 15-19

**Spring**
- Major: geoscience "choose three" course \( ^f \) 3 - 4

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**GE CLAS Core:** Social Sciences \( ^c \) 3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course \( ^e \) 4 - 5
Elective course \( ^i \) 3
Elective course \( ^i \) 1 - 3
EES:3130: Career Path Planning for Earth and Environmental Sciences 1

**Hours**: 15-19

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**Fourth Year**

**Fall**
- Major: geoscience elective course prefix EES numbered 3000 or above 3 - 4
- Major: geoscience elective course prefix EES numbered 3000 or above 3 - 4
- GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts \( ^c \) 3
- Elective course \( ^i \) 3
- Elective course \( ^i \) 1 - 3
- EES:4001: Fourth-Year Field Trip for Earth and Environmental Sciences \( ^g \) 2

**Hours**: 15-19

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**Spring**
- Major: geoscience elective course prefix EES numbered 3000 or above 3 - 4
- Major: geoscience elective course prefix EES numbered 3000 or above 3 - 4
- Elective course \( ^i \) 3
- Elective course \( ^i \) 3
- Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall) \( ^j \)

**Hours**: 14-16

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**Total Hours**: 124-145

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a Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.
b Students must complete 10 s.h. in college-level mathematics courses (may include computer science and statistics). Students should choose at least one course that will also complete the Quantitative or Formal Reasoning GE CLAS Core requirement.
c GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.
d If EES:1040 is chosen, it must be taken with the lab for 4 s.h.
e Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.
f Choose from EES:3300, EES:3360, EES:3380, EES:3500, EES:3840, or EES:4630.
g Recommended but not required to complete Geoscience BA degree requirements.
h To complete the major, students must have field experience. They may take at least 4 s.h. of EES:1180 and/or EES:3160 to satisfy this requirement. Either course may be repeated and/or combined to fulfill the necessary semester hours. They may take one semester of EES:2831 or the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory session.
i Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.
j Please see Academic Calendar, Office of the Registrar website for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Graduation Services.