Geoscience, B.S.

The B.S. in geoscience offers students an extensive and comprehensive background in the Earth sciences and related scientific disciplines, and is geared toward a career in the geosciences. Strengths of the department include environmental geology, geochemistry, geophysics, paleontology, stratigraphy, tectonics, basin analysis, surficial processes, petrology, and volcanology. Students gain extensive field experience and training, and are able to integrate field studies and analytical research, with knowledge gained in the classroom. Opportunities are provided for local, regional, and international field experiences as well as for individual research projects.

Learning Outcomes

Geoscience B.S. graduates will:

- understand the structure, composition, and physical processes of the Earth;
- understand the coevolution of the Earth-Life System;
- have the ability to interpret the geologic record in the field;
- understand how to assess and utilize our natural resources in a sustainable manner; and
- develop a quantitative analytical skill set to integrate the diverse array of Earth sciences and related disciplines.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Science with a major in geoscience requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 76 s.h. of work for the major (at least 45 s.h. in earth and environmental sciences courses and at least 31 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 coursework in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences.

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.S. with a major in geoscience requires the following coursework.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Earth and Environmental Sciences Courses</td>
<td>45-50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mathematics Courses</td>
<td>11-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chemistry Courses</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physics Courses</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Biology Course</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Independent Research Option</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>76-82</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Earth and Environmental Sciences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EES:1030</td>
<td>Introduction to Earth Science</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:1050</td>
<td>Introduction to Geology (preferred)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All of these:</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:1040</td>
<td>Evolution and the History of Life</td>
<td>4</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>EES:2831</td>
<td>Geologic Field Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:3300</td>
<td>Sedimentary Geology</td>
<td>4</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:4832</td>
<td>Geologic Field Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One of these:</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:3210</td>
<td>Principles of Paleontology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:4490</td>
<td>Elements of Geochemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:4630</td>
<td>Hydrogeology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:4790</td>
<td>Applied Environmental Geology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:4800</td>
<td>Global Geophysics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And:

Three earth and environmental sciences electives numbered EES:3000 or above, except for the field trip courses EES:3001, EES:3160, or EES:4001; see "Recommended Electives" below

Mathematics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH:1550</td>
<td>Engineering Mathematics I: Single Variable Calculus</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH:1850</td>
<td>Calculus I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One of these:</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH:1560</td>
<td>Engineering Mathematics II: Multivariable Calculus</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH:1860</td>
<td>Calculus II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And:

An additional mathematics course numbered MATH:2000 or above, or a computer science course numbered CS:1110 or above, or a statistics course numbered STAT:2010 or above, or EES:3100, or EES:4300 (if the EES courses are not used to satisfy the earth and environmental sciences electives requirement)

Chemistry

Students must complete at least 8 s.h. of college-level chemistry, including the following sequence or equivalent courses or more advanced courses. Chemistry courses numbered below CHEM:1110 Principles of Chemistry I do not count toward this requirement.
### Principles of Chemistry I-II
- Code: CHEM:1110 & CHEM:1120
- Title: Principles of Chemistry I-II
- Hours: 8

### Physics
Students must complete at least 8 s.h. of college-level physics, as follows. Physics courses numbered below PHYS:1511 College Physics I do not count toward this requirement.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYS:1511</td>
<td>College Physics I-II</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS:1611</td>
<td>Introductory Physics I-II</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Biology
Students must complete at least one biology course that includes a laboratory (4 s.h.). Students with an interest in paleontology are encouraged to take BIOL:1411 Foundations of Biology and BIOL:1412 Diversity of Form and Function.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One biology course (includes a lab)</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Recommended Electives
All students should take elective courses from the following groups in order to broaden their undergraduate experience and prepare themselves for graduate study or professional employment. Students who have clear career goals are advised to take three or more elective courses from the group that fits their needs most closely. Students also may seek a broad education in geoscience by choosing elective courses from a number of groups.

#### Quaternary Geology

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<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EES:3020</td>
<td>Earth Surface Processes</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:3060</td>
<td>Ecology and Natural History of Iowa</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:3100</td>
<td>Earth and Planetary Remote Sensing</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:4490</td>
<td>Elements of Geochemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:4520</td>
<td>Isotope Geochemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:4630</td>
<td>Hydrogeology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:4640</td>
<td>Contaminant Hydrogeology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:4720</td>
<td>Paleoclimatology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:4790</td>
<td>Applied Environmental Geology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Geochemistry

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EES:3100</td>
<td>Earth and Planetary Remote Sensing</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:3380</td>
<td>Fluvial Geomorphology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:3390</td>
<td>Integrated Watershed Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:4490</td>
<td>Elements of Geochemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:4520</td>
<td>Isotope Geochemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:4630</td>
<td>Hydrogeology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:4640</td>
<td>Contaminant Hydrogeology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:4680</td>
<td>Field Methods in Hydrologic Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:4790</td>
<td>Applied Environmental Geology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:4800</td>
<td>Global Geophysics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Tectonics/Petrology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EES:3350</td>
<td>Active Tectonics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:4410</td>
<td>Analytical Methods Seminar</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:4490</td>
<td>Elements of Geochemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:4520</td>
<td>Isotope Geochemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:4630</td>
<td>Hydrogeology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:4640</td>
<td>Contaminant Hydrogeology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:4750</td>
<td>Mineral and Petroleum Exploration Geology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:4800</td>
<td>Global Geophysics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:4820</td>
<td>Tectonics and Basin Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Sedimentary Geology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EES:3080</td>
<td>Introduction to Oceanography</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:3300</td>
<td>Sedimentary Geology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:3380</td>
<td>Fluvial Geomorphology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:3770</td>
<td>Global Stratigraphy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:4490</td>
<td>Elements of Geochemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:4520</td>
<td>Isotope Geochemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:4750</td>
<td>Mineral and Petroleum Exploration Geology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:4820</td>
<td>Tectonics and Basin Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Paleobiology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EES:3030</td>
<td>Conservation Paleobiology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:3070</td>
<td>Marine Ecosystems and Conservation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:3080</td>
<td>Introduction to Oceanography</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:3210</td>
<td>Principles of Paleontology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EES:3220</td>
<td>Evolution of the Vertebrates</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
learn about the University’s honors program.

University of Iowa Honors Program; visit for honors study and activities through membership in the
In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities
National Honor Society for the Earth Sciences. Students
group requirements. They must obtain approval
Tectonics and Basin Analysis
in Geoscience may be published subsequently.
Topical Choice of Majors leading to Licensure.
Teacher Licensee
To qualify for licensure in secondary teaching, students
also have been employed in the ancillary fields of
government, environment, engineering, law, business,
conservation agencies, museums, and departments of urban
planning, natural resources, and water resource management;
nonprofit organizations; research institutions; and ecotourism.
Companies such as ExxonMobil recruit Iowa graduates on
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.

American Planning and Licensure
This plan shows the range of required coursework.
The major requires field trip experiences, many of which take
place during break sessions or between semesters. 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.

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
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University of Iowa Honors Program; visit Honors at Iowa to
learn about the University’s honors program.

Independent Research Option
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 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:4999 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. For
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
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# Geoscience, B.S.

## Course Title

### Hours

#### Academic Career

**Research:** students are strongly encouraged to be active participants in research within the department. While only two field courses are required (EES:2831 Geologic Field Methods and EES:4832 Geologic Field Analysis), students are encouraged to participate in additional field experiences, whenever possible.

### Hours

#### Any Semester

**GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives**

numbered 3000 or above

**Major: geoscience elective course prefix EES**

EES:3300 4 - 5

**GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level**

Proficiency or elective course e

EES:3001 Third-Year Field Trip for Earth and Environmental Sciences g 1

**Spring**

EES:3840 Structural Geology 4

Major: biology lab science course (prefix BIOL) 4

**GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences**

f

**GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level**

Proficiency or elective course e

EES:3130 Career Path Planning for Earth and Environmental Sciences g 1

**Summer**

EES:4832 Geologic Field Analysis 3

**Fourth Year**

**Fall**

Major: geoscience "select one" course l

Major: geoscience elective course prefix EES numbered 3000 or above

**GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts**

f

**GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues**

EES:4001 Fourth-Year Field Trip for Earth and Environmental Sciences g 2

**Spring**

Major: geoscience elective course prefix EES numbered 3000 or above

**GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion**

f

**Elective course** i

**Elective course** i

**Degree Application:** apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall)

**Total Hours** 129-141

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a  EES:1050 is preferred.

b  Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.

c  Enrollment in chemistry courses requires completion of a placement exam.

d  Enrollment in math courses requires completion of a placement exam.

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  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.

g  Recommended but not required to complete Geoscience BS degree requirements.

h  Choose from a MATH course numbered 2000 or above, a CS course numbered 1110 or above, a STAT course numbered 2010 or above, or EES:3100 or EES:4300 (if the EES courses are not used to satisfy the earth and environmental sciences electives requirement).

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.
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.