

EARTH SCIENCES

This major includes a spectrum of disciplines focused on understanding the processes that influence the tectonics and environment of the planet, on using this understanding to read the record of earth history written in rocks and sediments, and on developing models that can be used to predict future changes due to natural phenomena and recent perturbations caused by humans. This degree is suitable for students interested in geoscience and related careers in business, law, medicine, or public policy.

BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA) GENERAL OVERVIEW

One introductory course. Examples include:

- Planet Earth
- Oceanography
- Crises of a Planet
- Climate Change
- Earthquakes

Three required courses:

- Minerals and Earth Systems
- Calculus I
- General Chemistry A

Choose one course from the following:

- General Biology: Organismal Biology and Evolution
- General Chemistry B
- Physics for the Life Sciences A

Seven upper-division elective courses. Examples include:

- Structural Geology and Tectonics
- Data Analysis in the Earth & Environmental Sciences
- Oceans, Climate, and the Environment
- Geobiology and Astrobiology
- Environmental Hydrogeology

ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Undergraduate Honors Program: The department offers an honors program for students pursuing either a BS in Geological Sciences or a BA in Earth Sciences. Students wishing to participate in this program must complete GEOL 494x Senior Thesis. Honors will be awarded upon successful completion of the thesis and attainment of an overall GPA of 3.0 and a GPA of 3.5 in courses in the major.

Earth Science Research Apprenticeship Program (ESRAP): Students have the opportunity to apply for and receive funding to conduct their own research projects with the guidance of a faculty member.

Maymester: Our “Maymester” classes (run as GEOL 465 – Field Geology) are a major highlight of our field education, covering a range of topics that vary on a yearly basis — typically alternating between a more environmental and more geological focus every other year. Recent locations have included Alaska and Greece.