GEOLGY

Have you always had a rock collection? Are interesting land forms your favorite vacation sites? Would you like to help someone locate groundwater or oil-bearing rock formations? If you answered yes to any of these questions, maybe geology is the field for you.

Wichita State University’s geology program emphasizes field and laboratory skills in sedimentology/stratigraphy and related fields. Particular attention is directed to solving problems of mineral exploration, mineral resource evaluation and depletion, and the environment.

Through the geology program at WSU, you may earn either the Bachelor of Science or the Bachelor of Arts degree. The BS degree provides in-depth training for professional work in industry or government, as well as for graduate study in any field of geoscience or environmental science.

The BA program provides training for students who wish to combine a geology major with teacher preparation, environmental studies, land-use planning, science journalism, environmental law, natural resource management/business, or similar majors. If you expect to achieve either the BS or BA in geology within a minimum period of time, you should complete while in high school geometry, trigonometry, two years of algebra and one year of chemistry. Physics is also recommended.

Admission

When you choose to study geology, you’ll be admitted to the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. You will be assigned a faculty advisor in the geology department who will help you develop your program of study and who will outline specific requirements. If you are still deciding on a major when you start at Wichita State, the Liberal Arts and Sciences Advising Center can help you explore career and major options.

Related Opportunities

WSU presents a summer field course for advanced students in geology. The base camp is in Powell, Wyoming on the north flank of the Bighorn Basin. The course consists of five weeks in the field, for which students receive six hours of credit.

As a geology major, you may participate in the Geology Club and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists student chapter.

If eligible, you may be selected for the geology honor society, Sigma Gamma Epsilon, and university academic honor societies such as Phi Kappa Phi and Mortar Board.

Related Programs

If you are interested in studying additional sciences, you have several options at Wichita State: biological sciences, chemistry and physics. You also may consider anthropology.

Geology Faculty

Dr. Bill Bischoff, Professor - Low-temperature geochemistry
Dr. Collette Burke, Associate Professor - Paleontology; Environmental Geology
Dr. Keith Gray, Assistant Professor - Structural Geology: Cordilleran Tectonics
Dr. Will Parcell, Associate Professor - Sedimentology; Stratigraphy; History of Geology
Dr. Andrew Swindle, Assistant Professor - Hydrogeology

General Education Program Requirements

What is the overall goal?
The goal of general education is to enable you to live a rich, meaningful life by developing: an informed appreciation of the arts, humanities, and natural and social sciences; an ability to intelligently follow and participate in current events; and a sensitive and tutored appreciation of diverse cultures and ways of living.

What are the expected outcomes?
Embedded throughout general education and furthered in the major are the skills that enable graduates to contribute productively to society and the on-going culture. Therefore, upon graduation the faculty expects you to:

- Have acquired knowledge in the arts, humanities, and natural and social sciences
- Think critically and independently
- Write and speak effectively
- Employ analytical reasoning and problem solving techniques
Major Requirements - 124 credit hours

Requirements for the BA in Geology
- Earth Sciences & the Environment w/ lab
  OR
  General Geology - 4 credit hours
- Earth & Space Sciences - 3 credit hours
- Historical Geology - 4 credit hours
- Mineralogy & Optical Mineralogy - 4 credit hours
- Sedimentary Geology - 3 credit hours
- Structural Geology - 3 credit hours
- One capstone course - 3 or 6 credit hours
- Geology electives - 6 credit hours

Required Supporting Sciences
- Elementary Statistics - 3 credit hours
- Pre-calculus Mathematics
  OR
  College Trigonometry - 3 or 5 credit hours
- Introductory or General Chemistry - 5 credit hours
- Introductory Physics (if no physics taken in high school) - 4 credit hours

Requirements for the BS in Geology
- General Geology - 4 credit hours
- Historical Geology - 4 credit hours
- Mineralogy & Optical Mineralogy - 4 credit hours
- Petrology and Petrography - 3 credit hours
- Sedimentary Geology - 3 credit hours
- Field Mapping Methods - 3 credit hours
- Structural Geology - 3 credit hours
- Physical Stratigraphy - 3 credit hours
- Biogeology - 3 credit hours
- Field Geology - 6 credit hours
- Upper-division geology electives - 9 credit hours

Required Supporting Sciences
- Calculus I and II - 10 credit hours
- Elementary Statistics - 3 credit hours
- General and Inorganic Chemistry - 10 credit hours
- General College Physics I and II - 10 credit hours
  OR
  University College Physics I and II - 8 credit hours

*Some of the courses listed in Major Requirements will count toward the LAS General Education Requirements.

For more information
If you have further questions or would like to schedule a campus visit, please contact the Office of Admissions.

Marcus Welcome Center
Office of Admissions
1845 Fairmount
Wichita, KS 67260-0124
wichita.edu/admissions
wichita.edu/visit

KSDegreeStats.org

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For more information on Geology at WSU visit wichita.edu/geology or call (316) 978-3140.