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

Well-Rounded Learning

Wichita State strives to offer the most complete college experience possible to produce well-rounded, successful Shocker graduates. Through general education courses, students explore subjects outside of their major, expanding their knowledge, perspective and skills and making a positive impact on their career and life.

Benefits of general education courses:

- Improved critical thinking skills
- Better communication, written and spoken
- Increased analytical reasoning and problem solving
- An acquired knowledge of natural and social science, the arts and humanities

Improve skills by taking courses that include diversity content, study abroad experiences, service learning and experience-based learning.
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.