The study of earth’s dynamic systems is a field that has seen major advances over the last few decades. Geologists investigate diverse systems that play a large role in controlling the environment at the earth’s surface.

Department Programs

Majors

• Geological Sciences Major, B.A.—Earth Science (p. 1)

Minor

• Geological Sciences Minor (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/geological-sciences-minor)

Graduate Programs

• M.S. in Geological Sciences (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/geological-sciences)
• Ph.D. in Geological Sciences (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/geological-sciences)

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the geological sciences program (B.A.), students should be able to:

• Demonstrate broad knowledge of core geological concepts
• Produce written synthesis of professional journal articles dealing with topics covered in advanced courses
• Make a clear and effective oral presentation
• Apply knowledge and skills from coursework in a significant field experience in an area of geological sciences

In addition to the program requirements listed below, students must

• attain a final cumulative GPA of at least 2.0
• complete a minimum of 45 academic credit hours earned from UNC–Chapel Hill courses
• take at least half of their major course requirements (courses and credit hours) at UNC–Chapel Hill
• earn a minimum of 18 hours of C or better in the major core requirements (some majors require 21 hours).

For more information, please consult the degree requirements section of the catalog (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/general-education-curriculum-degree-requirements/#degreerequirementstext).

Core Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEOL 200</td>
<td>The Solid Earth</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOL 201</td>
<td>Earth’s Surface: Processes, Landforms, and History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A minimum of 11 credits from the following GEOL courses:</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOL 202</td>
<td>Earth Systems History</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOL 215</td>
<td>Energy Resources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOL 221</td>
<td>Geology of North America</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOL 302</td>
<td>Structural Geology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOL 303</td>
<td>Sedimentology and Stratigraphy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOL 304</td>
<td>Petrology and Plate Tectonics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOL 324</td>
<td>Water in Our World: Introduction to Hydrologic Science and Environmental Problems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; GEOL 324L</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Capstone requirement:

GEOL 485 & GEOL 486 Summer Field Course in Geology and Summer Field Course in Geology

GEOL 691H & GEOL 692H Honors and Honors

GEOL 395 Undergraduate Research in Geology

Science-oriented Experiential Education (EE) courses (6 credits total):

CHEM 101 General Descriptive Chemistry I & 101L and Quantitative Chemistry Laboratory I

MATH 130 Precalculus Mathematics

At least three geology and/or allied science electives not otherwise required for the major (see below chart)

Total Hours

39

Additional Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 101</td>
<td>General Descriptive Chemistry I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; 101L</td>
<td>and Quantitative Chemistry Laboratory I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 130</td>
<td>Precalculus Mathematics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At least three geology and/or allied science electives not otherwise required for the major (see below chart)

Total Hours

39

1 6 credits of independent research
2 Must be pre-approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Geology and/or Allied Science Electives Not Otherwise Required for the Major

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 143</td>
<td>Human Evolution and Adaptation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 220</td>
<td>Principles of Archaeology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 315</td>
<td>Human Genetics and Evolution</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 317</td>
<td>Evolutionary Perspectives on Human Adaptation and Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 412</td>
<td>Paleoenvironmental Anthropology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 414</td>
<td>Laboratory Methods: Human Osteology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

any Astronomy (ASTR)

any Biochemistry (BIOC) except BIOC 107 and BIOC 108
Courses for:

Students also must satisfy all General Education requirements.

Course descriptions for:

- Astronomy (ASTR) and Physics (PHYS) (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/departments/physics-astronomy/#coursestext)
- Biochemistry (BIOC) (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/departments/biochemistry-biophysics/#coursestext)
- Biology (BIOL) (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/departments/biology/#coursestext)
- Chemistry (CHEM) (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/departments/chemistry/#coursestext)
- Computer Science (COMP) (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/departments/computer-science/#coursestext)
- Environmental Health Sciences (ENVR) (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/departments/environmental-sciences-engineering/#coursestext)
- Geography (GEOG) (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/departments/geography/#coursestext)
- Geological Sciences (GEOL) (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/departments/geological-sciences/#coursestext)
- Marine Sciences (MASC) (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/departments/marine-sciences/#coursestext)
- Mathematics (MATH) (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/departments/mathematics/#coursestext)
- Statistics and Operations Research (STOR) (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/departments/statistics-operations-research/#coursestext)

Special Opportunities in Geological Sciences

Honors in Geological Sciences

The honors program in the Department of Geological Sciences is open to undergraduates with an overall grade point average of 3.3 or better as of the beginning of the fall semester of the senior year. To participate in this program, the student chooses a research topic in consultation with his or her chosen faculty sponsor and conducts the research during the last two semesters in residence. The research project should represent the equivalent time expenditure of six hours of course credit and is taken as GEOL 691H (fall semester) and GEOL 692H (spring semester).

Upon recommendation of the faculty, students may be awarded the degree with honors or highest honors. Highest honors is reserved for students who have distinguished themselves in both coursework and independent research. In order to obtain this distinction the student must maintain a grade point average of 3.60 or higher and complete a research project that is worthy of peer-reviewed publication.

Departmental Involvement

The Department of Geological Sciences encourages the active participation of undergraduates in department research, teaching, and social life. In addition to opportunities for experiential education and teaching internships described below, the department has an active Geology Honor Fraternity and Geology Club and regularly sponsors field excursions, career information sessions, and social events. Dates, times, and locations for all events are posted on the Web site and in the main lobby on the first floor of Mitchell Hall.

Experiential Education

Many geology courses emphasize experiential learning through field and laboratory work. Most degree tracks include a field geology course (GEOL 485 and GEOL 486 or a similar course in another department) that fulfills the experiential education General Education requirement. Additionally, all students are encouraged to contact faculty members about conducting independent research, either as an honors thesis or a senior thesis project.

UNC–BEST

The UNC Baccalaureate Education in Science and Teaching (UNC–BEST) Program is a collaboration between the School of Education and the College of Arts and Sciences and is designed to allow undergraduate science majors interested in teaching high school science the opportunity to earn their science degree and obtain licensure as a North Carolina high school science teacher in four years.
Teaching methods course
GEOL 412 Principles and Methods of Teaching Earth Science 4

For more details on admission requirements, application deadlines, and submitting an online application, visit the School of Education Web site (http://soe.unc.edu/academics/uncbest).

Study Abroad
Although the department has no formalized study abroad program, many students participate in a study abroad program, and some receive credit for geology coursework completed abroad. Students interested in a study abroad program should contact the director of undergraduate studies. Students must receive approval from the director of undergraduate studies prior to taking courses abroad for geology credit.

Undergraduate Awards
The Op White Prize in Geology, established in 1966, consists of a cash prize and an engraved bronze plaque displayed in the geology office. The award is given annually to the outstanding senior in geology.

Field Camp Scholarships
Several scholarships for geology field camp are awarded each year from the Grover Murray and Anadarko funds.

Undergraduate Research
The Department of Geological Sciences encourages qualified undergraduate students to conduct independent research on an interesting geologic topic under the direction of a geological sciences faculty member. This research can be conducted as a one- to four-credit hour project (GEOL 395) or in conjunction with the geology honors program.