GEOLOGY, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

College of Letters & Science

“Civilization exists by geological consent—subject to change without notice.” — Will Durant

Geology is the study of the Earth, and in particular its history, structure, and the processes that have molded our planet and its biosphere. Geology involves the origin of continents & ocean basins, earthquakes & volcanoes, variations in global climate, and how these physical changes impact the evolution of life. All of these planetary processes are viewed through the prism of “deep time,” a perspective unique to geologists and one that distinguishes geology from most of the other physical sciences.

A significant component of geology is oriented toward the interaction between humans and the Earth. This aspect includes the study of resources such as minerals, oil, and water; identification & mitigation of Earth hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, floods, and volcanic eruptions; identification & mitigation of polluted ground water; land use planning; and the study of ancient & modern climate change.

The Program

Students interested in becoming professional geologists or continuing their geological studies at the graduate level should choose the Bachelor of Science degree program. The Bachelor of Arts program is for students interested in an interdisciplinary program of study, or who plan to go into pre-college teaching. The upper division electives are not restricted to geology courses but must be chosen to provide a relevant, coherent, and in-depth program of study.

Undergraduate Research

The geosciences span many disciplines at UC Davis, and students have opportunities to participate in undergraduate research (https://eps.ucdavis.edu/students/undergrad/gel/internships/) in a variety of interest areas. Many students choose to complete a senior thesis to develop their research and writing skills during their senior year.

Internships & Careers

A degree in Geology provides students with knowledge and practical experience needed to pursue careers (https://eps.ucdavis.edu/students/careers/) in the geosciences (government, private sector, research, teaching). The major program includes flexibility to participate in research, internships, and fieldwork to help prepare students for these career paths. The requirements for a B.S. in Geology satisfy the coursework required for the Professional Geologist licensing process in the State of California.

Graduate Study

The coursework, research and internship opportunities, and fieldwork requirements in the Geology major help prepare students to enter graduate programs (https://eps.ucdavis.edu/students/careers/gradschool/) to continue their studies and prepare for their career. Students should meet with advisors and faculty to build a strong application for graduate school through additional independent research or other co-curricular involvements.

Global Learning in Geology

Consider studying or interning abroad through programs available through the Global Learning Hub (https://eps.ucdavis.edu/students/undergrad/gel/studyabroad/).

Get Involved

Find your community (https://eps.ucdavis.edu/students/undergrad/gel/involved/) through clubs, events, seminars, and workshops relating to geoscience.

Graduation Honors

Students graduating from the College of Letters & Science are eligible for Departmental Honors, depending on their GPA and whether or not they complete a Senior Thesis. Students who graduate with a GPA in the top percentages of their college (https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/academic-information-policies-regulations/honors-prizes/) will automatically graduate with Honors. Students who qualify for Honors at graduation may also be eligible for High Honors or Highest Honors, based upon the quality of their Senior Thesis (https://eps.ucdavis.edu/students/undergrad/gel/research/) (course number 194A-194B) or Senior Honors Thesis (course number 194HA-194HB). It is Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences policy that an "A-" grade on the thesis will earn the student High Honors, and an "A" grade will earn the student Highest Honors.

Advising

Visit the staff major advisor (https://eps.ucdavis.edu/students/undergrad/advising/) for help navigating major requirements and planning for your degree. Visit the faculty major advisors (https://eps.ucdavis.edu/students/undergrad/advising/) for additional advice on courses, careers, and graduate school. Faculty advisors: R. Motani, D. A. Osleger, M. Rudolph.


The major requirements below are in addition to the University Requirements (https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/university-degree-requirements/) and College Requirements (https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/academic-information-policies-regulations/college-major-minor-information/) for earning a Bachelor’s Degree.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparatory Subject Matter</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Geology</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEL 050</td>
<td>Physical Geology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEL 050L</td>
<td>Physical Geology Laboratory</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEL 053</td>
<td>Introduction to Geobiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEL 055</td>
<td>Introduction to Geochemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEL 056</td>
<td>Introduction to Geophysics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEL 060</td>
<td>Earth Materials: Introduction</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Choose a series</td>
<td>11-12</td>
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MAT 017A & MAT 017B & MAT 017C  
Calculus for Biology & Medicine and Calculus for Biology & Medicine and Calculus for Biology & Medicine

or

MAT 021A & MAT 021B & MAT 022A  
Calculus and Calculus and Linear Algebra

or

MAT 016A & MAT 016B & MAT 016C & MAT 022A  
Short Calculus and Short Calculus and Short Calculus and Linear Algebra

Chemistry  
Choose a series:  
10  
CHE 002A & CHE 002B  
General Chemistry and General Chemistry  
CHE 004A & CHE 004B  
General Chemistry for the Physical Sciences & Engineering and General Chemistry for the Physical Sciences & Engineering

Statistics  
Choose one:  
4  
STA 013 or STA 013Y  
Elementary Statistics or Elementary Statistics  
STA 032  
Gateway to Statistical Data Science  
STA 100  
Applied Statistics for Biological Sciences

Physics  
Choose a series:  
8-10  
PHY 007A & PHY 007B  
General Physics and General Physics  
PHY 009A & PHY 009B  
Classical Physics and Classical Physics  
PHY 009HA & PHY 009HB  
Honors Physics and Honors Physics

Preparatory Subject Matter Subtotal  
52-55

Depth Subject Matter  
Geology Courses  
GEL 101  
Structural Geology  3  
GEL 101L  
Structural Geology Lab  2  
GEL 103  
Field Geology  4  
GEL 105  
Earth Materials: Igneous Rocks  4  
GEL 107  
Earth History: Paleobiology  3  
GEL 107L  
Earth History: Paleobiology Laboratory  2  
GEL 108  
Earth History: Paleoclimates  3  
GEL 109  
Earth History: Sediments & Strata  3  
GEL 109L  
Earth History: Sediments & Strata Laboratory  2

Upper Division Electives  
Choose 18 units:  
18

Choose from courses GEL 130-GEL 194 or pre-selected non-GEL courses. Only one of GEL 181/EDU 181 or GEL 183/EDU 183 or GEL 185A or 185B or 186 may be applied toward elective credit. Pre-selected non-GEL courses in related fields: CHE 100, ECI 171/ECI 171L, ECI 175, ESM 100, ESM 186, ESP 152, HYD 144, HYD 146, LDA 150/ABT 150, SSC 100, WFC 102. Other courses in related fields must be approved in advance by the major advisor. No more than 3 units of upper division elective credit for courses GEL 115-GEL 120. No more than 6 units of upper division elective credit for GEL 192 or GEL 194A-GEL 194B or GEL 194HA-GEL 194HB. Students who receive approval to do a senior thesis for part of the capstone requirement may not use GEL 194A-GEL 194B or GEL 194HA-GEL 194HB for the upper division elective courses.

GEL 130  
Non-Renewable Natural Resources  
GEL 131  
Risk: Natural Hazards & Related Phenomena  
GEL 132  
Introductory Inorganic Geochemistry  
GEL 133  
Environmental Geochemistry  
GEL 134  
Environmental Geology & Land Use Planning  
GEL 136  
Ecogeomorphology of Rivers & Streams  
GEL 138  
Introductory Volcanology  
GEL 139  
Rivers: Form, Function & Management  
GEL 140  
Introduction to Process Geomorphology  
GEL 141  
Evolutionary History of Vertebrates  
GEL 142  
Basin Analysis  
GEL 143  
Advanced Igneous Petrology  
GEL 144  
Historical Ecology  
GEL 145  
Advanced Metamorphic Petrology  
GEL 146  
Radiogenic Isotope Geochemistry & Cosmochemistry  
GEL 147  
Geology of Ore Deposits  
GEL 148  
Stable Isotopes & Geochemical Tracers  
GEL 149  
Geothermal Systems  
GEL/ESP 150A  
Physical & Chemical Oceanography  
GEL/ESP 150B  
Geological Oceanography  
GEL/ESP 150C  
Biological Oceanography  
GEL 152  
Paleobiology of Protista  
GEL 156/HYD 146  
Hydrogeology & Contaminant Transport  
GEL 160  
Geological Data Analysis  
GEL 161  
Geophysical Field Methods  
GEL 162  
Geophysics of the Solid Earth  
GEL 163  
Planetary Geology & Geophysics  
GEL 175  
Advanced Field Geology  
GEL/EDU 181  
Teaching in Science & Mathematics  
GEL 182  
Field Studies in Marine Geochmistry  
GEL/EDU 183  
Teaching High School Mathematics & Science  
GEL 185A  
Conceptual Integrated Science for Non-Science Majors: The Physical World  
GEL 185B  
Conceptual Integrated Science for Non-Science Majors: Earth System Science  
GEL 186  
Facilitating Learning in STEM Classrooms  
GEL 190  
Seminar in Geology
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEL 192</td>
<td>Internship in Geology</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEL 194A</td>
<td>Senior Thesis</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEL 194B</td>
<td>Senior Thesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEL 194HA</td>
<td>Senior Honors Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEL 194HB</td>
<td>Senior Honors Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHE 100</td>
<td>Environmental Water Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDU/GEL 181</td>
<td>Teaching in Science &amp; Mathematics</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDU/GEL 183</td>
<td>Teaching High School Mathematics &amp; Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECI 171</td>
<td>Soil Mechanics</td>
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<td>ECI 171L</td>
<td>Soil Mechanics Laboratory</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECI 175</td>
<td>Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESM 100</td>
<td>Principles of Hydrologic Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESM 186</td>
<td>Environmental Remote Sensing</td>
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<td>ESP 152</td>
<td>Coastal Oceanography</td>
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<tr>
<td>HYD/EBS 144</td>
<td>Groundwater Hydrology</td>
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<tr>
<td>HYD 146/GEL 156</td>
<td>Hydrogeology &amp; Contaminant Transport</td>
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<tr>
<td>LDA/ABT 150</td>
<td>Introduction to Geographic Information Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSC 100</td>
<td>Principles of Soil Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>WFC 102</td>
<td>Field Studies in Fish Biology</td>
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**Capstone**

Choose two summer field courses. A senior thesis may only be substituted for one of the summer field courses with the consent of the thesis advisor and an undergraduate advisor. The decision to undertake a thesis in lieu of a summer field course must be declared by the end of the spring term of a student's junior year.

Choose two:

- GEL 110A Summer Field Geology: Structures & Neotectonics
- GEL 110B Summer Field Geology: Volcanology
- GEL 110C Summer Field Geology: Special Projects
- GEL 194A Senior Thesis
- GEL 194B Senior Thesis
- or GEL 194HA Senior Honors Project
- & GEL 194HB Senior Honors Project

**Depth Subject Matter Subtotal**: 52-54

**Total Units**: 104-109