

GEOPHYSICS, MINOR

College of Letters & Science

Geophysics is the study of the physical properties and processes within and surrounding the Earth and other planets. Many problems in the Earth and Planetary Sciences require geophysical techniques for study. The minor in geophysics is designed for those Geology majors and non-Geology majors, who are interested in pursuing a graduate or professional career in geophysics, and/or those who desire a career in petroleum or civil engineering or environmental industries. The minor in geophysics may be particularly useful to those in related technical fields such as mathematics, physics, material science and engineering, who wish to apply their skills to problems in Earth science.

Students majoring in Geology (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/departments-programs-degrees/earth-planetary-sciences/geology-bs/>) may elect to complete a minor in Geophysics, Environmental Geology, or Oceanography. They may not complete a minor in Geology.

Students majoring in Marine & Coastal Science (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/departments-programs-degrees/earth-planetary-sciences/marine-coastal-science-bs/>) may elect to complete a minor in Geology, Geophysics, or Environmental Geology. They may not complete a minor in Oceanography.

The minor is sponsored by the Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/departments-programs-degrees/earth-planetary-sciences/>).

Advising

Visit the staff major advisor (<https://eps.ucdavis.edu/students/undergrad/advising/>) for help navigating minor requirements, policies, prerequisites, and course offerings. Visit the faculty major advisors (<https://eps.ucdavis.edu/students/undergrad/advising/>) for additional advice on courses, careers, and graduate school. Faculty Advisor: M. I. Billen.

Work with your major advisor and college advisors to fit a minor into your overall academic plan.

Declare your minor using the OASIS Minor Declaration form (<https://students.ucdavis.edu/forms/instructions/minordeclaration.aspx?sv=true>), due the quarter before graduation.

Code	Title	Units
Choose four:		12
GEL 131	Risk: Natural Hazards & Related Phenomena	
GEL 160	Geological Data Analysis (Discontinued for fall 2026) **	
or EPS 160		
GEL 161	Geophysical Field Methods (Discontinued for fall 2026) **	
or EPS 161		
GEL 162	Geophysics of the Solid Earth (Discontinued for fall 2026) **	
or EPS 162		
GEL 163	Planetary Geology & Geophysics (Discontinued for fall 2026) **	

or EPS 163		
Choose additional courses from above and/or from the following list to reach at least 18 total units for the minor.		6
ECI 175	Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering	
ESM 100	Introduction to Water Science	
EPS 102		
or GEL 101 DISC		
GEL 116N/	Oceanography (Discontinued for fall 2026)	
ESP 116N DISCONTINUED FOR FALL 2026		
or EPS 116		
GEL 130	Non-Renewable Natural Resources (Discontinued for winter 2026)	
GEL 134	Environmental Geology & Land Use Planning (Discontinued for fall 2026) **	
or EPS 134		
GEL 142	Basin Analysis (Discontinued for winter 2026)	
GEL 147	Geology of Ore Deposits (Discontinued for winter 2026)	
GEL 149	Geothermal Systems (Discontinued for winter 2026)	
GEL/ESP 150A	Physical & Chemical Oceanography	
GEL/ESP 150B	Geological Oceanography	
GEL 156	Hydrogeology & Contaminant Transport (Discontinued for winter 2026)	
HYD/EBS 144	Groundwater Hydrology	
HYD 146	Hydrogeology & Contaminant Transport (Discontinued for winter 2026)	
Total Units		18

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Course(s) discontinued; see your advisor for course options.