Geological Sciences

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Faculty

Associate Professor M. Appold**, F. G. Gomez**, J. Schillbauer**
Assistant Professor T. Bidgoli*, J. W. Huntley**

Director, Geology Field Program M. Barquero-Molina*

* Graduate Faculty Member - membership is required to teach graduate-level courses, chair master’s thesis committees, and serve on doctoral examination and dissertation committees.
** Doctoral Faculty Member - membership is required to chair doctoral examination or dissertation committees. Graduate faculty membership is a prerequisite for Doctoral faculty membership.

Undergraduate

• BA in Geological Sciences (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/geologicalsciences/ba-geological-sciences)
• BS in Geological Sciences (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/geologicalsciences/bs-geological-sciences)
• Minor in Geological Sciences (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/geologicalsciences/minor-geological-sciences)

The Department of Geological Sciences offers two undergraduate degree programs, a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science, both with major in Geological Sciences. The BA is geared to those students interested in using geological knowledge in an allied career such as environmental law or science journalism, while the BS is geared toward students interested in careers as environmental geoscientists and hydrogeologists, the mining and fossil fuel industries, or an advanced degrees geology or geophysics. The BS capstone is a 6 week field camp at our permanent field station, Camp Branson, in Wyoming. This camp is sought after by students form around the country and its graduates are well regarded by employers. In addition, students majoring in other departments can minor in geological sciences.

Departmental Honors

Departmental honors can be achieved by students who maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0, departmental GPA of 3.3, and who complete a senior thesis.

Dual Degrees

The Department of Geological Sciences offers dual degree programs with the Department of Soil, Environmental and Atmospheric Science in their emphasis area of Environmental Soil Science and with the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and with the College of Education in the Bachelor of Science in Education, emphasis in Earth Science Education. For more information, contact an advisor in the department.

Graduate

• MS in Geology (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/geologicalsciences/ms-geology)
• PhD in Geology (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/geologicalsciences/phd-geology)

Department of Geological Sciences
101 Geological Sciences Building
(573) 882-6785
https://geology.missouri.edu/grad/graduate-program

Director of Graduate Studies: Francisco Gomez

About the Geological Sciences Program

The areas of research covered by faculty are broad and diverse, with strong research expertise in the general areas of geochemistry, petrology, paleontology, and geophysics-tectonics. These strengths allow us to focus on problems identified by the National Research Council to be socially relevant and to be fundamental to an understanding of earth processes. Dynamic faculty, along with their students, are making significant contributions to numerous areas of basic and applied research. This research is supported by excellent, state-of-the-art analytical facilities in the department and on campus. Our graduate program prepares students for a wide range of professions within the geological sciences; students have been placed in private, federal, state, and academic institutions. Prospective students are encouraged to contact any faculty member directly for additional information.

Areas of Specialization

The areas of specialization are aqueous geochemistry, biogeochemistry, invertebrate paleontology, isotope geochemistry, geophysics, hydrogeology, igneous petrology, metamorphic petrology, paleontology, ore deposits, paleoclimatology, paleoecology, sedimentation, stratigraphy, structural geology, tectonics, and volcanology.

Facilities and Resources

The Geological Sciences Building houses many different research laboratories, as well as classrooms and an excellent geology library. Equipment is available for supervised student use in many fields. The Geology Field Camp is in the Wind River Mountains near Lander, Wyoming. See the Department website at https://geology.missouri.edu/grad/graduate-program.

About the Degrees

The master’s degree program includes a thesis and a non-thesis option, both of which require 30 credit hours beyond the bachelor’s degree. The thesis option is accomplished by taking 18 to 21 graduate course credits and preparing a written thesis involving 9-12 credits of research or problems credits. Students have until the middle of their second semester in residence at the university to choose a supervisor and a thesis topic. The non-thesis track requires 27 hours of graduate course credits plus 3 hours of research credit leading to completion of a smaller-scale research project.

The doctoral degree requires 72 hours beyond a bachelor’s degree, and may include as many as 24 hours credit from a prior master’s degree.
Doctoral candidates must pass a qualifying exam during their first year in residence to assess their general background so that a meaningful program of study can be constructed. The usual doctoral program involves courses within and outside the department, and researching the dissertation topic prior to taking the comprehensive examination by the end of the second year. The results of the dissertation research are presented to the faculty and graduate students when the student has completed the project.

Financial Aid from the Program

Some programs require an extra form or statement from those who wish to be considered for internal assistantships, fellowships or other funding packages. Check the program website or ask the program contact for details.

GEOL 1050: Planet Earth
An introduction to Earth Science. Topics include: evidence for continental drift and plate tectonics, causes and prediction of natural hazards, the scale of geological time.

Credit Hours: 3
GEOL 1050 - MOTR GEOL 100: Geology

GEOL 1100: Principles of Geology with Laboratory
Three lectures, 2-hours lab. Earth processes and products and their impact on human needs and the environment. One field trip. For the Mizzou Online sections, there will not be required lectures, lab, and field trip.

Credit Hours: 4
GEOL 1100 - MOTR GEOL 100L: Geology with Lab

GEOL 1120: Scientific Investigations of the Earth
This hybrid-lab course introduces basic methods of earth science investigation and inquiry with an emphasis on earth sciences. Key concepts include basic scientific methodology, earth materials and processes, and the societal relevance of geoscience research and application. Upon completion of the course, the successful student will have learned to apply course material to improve thinking, problem solving and decision-making. Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 2
Recommended: GEOL 1050 as a corequisite (although the course will be a stand-alone introduction to the geosciences)

GEOL 1200: Environmental Geology with Laboratory
The interaction between geologic processes and human society. Topics include mineral, water, and energy resources, volcanic hazards, earthquakes, landslides, floods, coastal erosion, pollution problems and environmental management.

Credit Hours: 4
GEOL 1200 - MOTR GEOL 100L: Geology with Lab

GEOL 1250: The World’s Oceans
An interdisciplinary introduction to oceanography. Topics include: geologic evolution of ocean basins, properties of seawater, ocean circulation (waves, tides, and currents), marine ecosystems, instability of beaches and coastlines, coastal development and engineering.

Credit Hours: 3

GEOL 1400: Themes in Geology
5-week course organized around a central theme or topic, up to 3 different sections can be taken for credit.

Credit Hour: 1

GEOL 2100: Independent Study in Geology
Directed Library research in geological topics, under the supervision of faculty sponsor. May be repeated for a maximum of 3 hours credit.

Credit Hour: 1-3
Prerequisites: instructor’s consent

GEOL 2110: Introduction to Soil Science with Laboratory
(same as SOIL 2110). Introduction to Soil Science with emphasis placed on physical, biological, and chemical properties and applications to land use, plant growth, and environmental problems with laboratory application of these concepts.

Credit Hours: 5
Prerequisites: CHEM 1320

GEOL 2120H: Faults and Earthquakes: Past, Present, and Future
Seminar in science and societal ramifications of earthquakes. Geologic background includes causes, behavior, and distribution of faults. Student-led discussions cover historical disasters, economic, political, psychological, and cultural perspectives.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: ENGLISH 1000
Recommended: Honors eligibility

GEOL 2130: Physical Geology for Scientists and Engineers
Introduction to physical geology and Earth processes with a focus on applications and societal relevance. In addition to basic geologic processes, physical principles will illustrate the interactions between geology and engineering, using a calculus-based approach.

Credit Hours: 4
Prerequisites: MATH 1500
GEOL 2130 - MOTR GEOL 100: Geology

GEOL 2150: The Age of the Dinosaurs
Study of the evolution of dinosaurs during the Mesozoic Era. New information on dinosaur life habits, food resources, dispersal by plate tectonics, and theories of extinction will be covered.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: 1000-level science course

GEOL 2160H: Volcanoes and the Human Environment - Honors
(same as GN_HON 2450H). This course gives students an understanding of how volcanoes work, how they are studied, and how they have impacted human cultures. Students will gain appreciation of volcanology as a broad scientific discipline within geology and the role that science plays in public policy. Graded on A/F basis only.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required
GEOL 2220: Seminar: Headline Topics in the Geological Sciences
(same as GEOL 2220H). Seminar organized around a central theme that is the focus of intense ongoing research and public debate.
Credit Hours: 3

GEOL 2220H: Honors Seminar: Headline Topics in the Geological Science
Seminar organized around a central theme that is the focus of intense ongoing research and public debate.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: ENGLSH 1000
Recommended: Honors eligibility

GEOL 2300: Earth Systems and Global Change
Study of the earth as a whole, taking into account the many interwoven components of the geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere and biosphere.
Credit Hours: 3
Recommended: 1000-level Science course

GEOL 2350: Historical Geology
Summary of principles and techniques used in reconstructing Earth's history. Survey of major events that have affected Earth and its inhabitants. Review of geologic history of North America.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: GEOL 1100 or GEOL 1150 or GEOL 1200

GEOL 2360: Historical Geology Laboratory
A laboratory course designed to improve understanding of Earth History by examination of maps and mineral, rock, sediment and fossil samples.
Credit Hours: 1
Prerequisites: GEOL 1100 or GEOL 1150 or GEOL 1200
Corequisites: GEOL 2350

GEOL 2400: Surficial Earth Processes and Products with Laboratory
Semiquantitative analysis of geologic processes that shape the earth's surface. Includes topics in sedimentation and geomorphology.
Credit Hours: 4
Prerequisites: GEOL 1100 or GEOL 1150 or GEOL 1200, and MATH 1100

GEOL 2450: Global Water Cycle
Study of environmental geochemical factors controlling the composition of natural waters, and sources of water's constituents (natural or human-produced). Math Reasoning Proficiency Course.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: MATH 1100
Recommended: 1000-level science course

GEOL 2500: Regional Geology Field Trip
Field based study of a particular geologic region, including classroom preparation prior to the field trip. The trip will last 7-10 days, either during Spring Break or immediately after finals week. May be repeated for credit.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: GEOL 1100 or GEOL 1150 or GEOL 1200

GEOL 2600: Mineral and Energy Resources of the Earth
This course examines the geology of Earth's major mineral and energy resources--their origin, distribution, and characteristics--and societal implications of their use and abundance. Major topics: fossil fuels, nuclear energy, base & precious metals, non-metallic minerals, water.
Credit Hours: 3

GEOL 3085: Problems in Geological Sciences
Problems in Geological Sciences.
Credit Hour: 1-5
Prerequisites: Honors eligibility

GEOL 3110: Geology of Missouri
The physical, historical, and environmental geology of Missouri are described, discussed and interpreted.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: ENGLSH 1000 and either GEOL 1100 or GEOL 1200

GEOL 3250: Mineralogy
Introduction to crystallography, crystal chemistry and crystal structures. Systematic study of mineral groups. Includes identification of minerals by physical, chemical and optical properties.
Credit Hours: 5

GEOL 3300: Introduction to Geochemistry
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites or Corequisites: CHEM 1330
Prerequisites: MATH 1400 or MATH 1500, and GEOL 1100 or GEOL 1150 or GEOL 1200

GEOL 3550: Introduction to Paleontology with Laboratory
Study of the morphology, paleontology, patterns of evolution, and causes of extinction in geologically important groups of invertebrate and vertebrate fossils. Lab concentrates on identification of biostatigraphically important fossils (mostly invertebrates). Several half-day field trips.
Credit Hours: 4
Prerequisites: GEOL 1100 or GEOL 1150 or GEOL 1200

GEOL 3650: Structural Geology
The mechanical behavior of earth materials. Analysis of the geometry and mechanics of faults, fractures, and folds. Laboratory includes problems on stresses and strains associated with deformation, geometric analysis of deformation structures, and interpretation of geologic maps.
Credit Hours: 4
Prerequisites: GEOL 1100 or GEOL 1150 or GEOL 1200 and MATH 1140 or MATH 1160 or MATH 1500
GEOL 3800: Sedimentology and Stratigraphy with Lab
Mechanics of sediment transport by fluid flow and gravity flow, origins of stratification and sedimentary structures, facies characteristics depositional environments.
Credit Hours: 4
Prerequisites: GEOL 3250

GEOL 4002: Topics in Geological Sciences-Biological Science
Organized study of selected topics. Subjects and earnable credit may vary. May be repeated with departmental consent.
Credit Hour: 1-99
Prerequisites: instructor's consent

GEOL 4006: Topics in Geological Sciences-Mathematical Science
Organized study of selected topics. Subjects and earnable credit may vary. May be repeated with departmental consent.
Credit Hour: 1-99
Prerequisites: instructor's consent

GEOL 4007: Topics in Geological Sciences-Physical Science
Organized study of selected topics. Subjects and earnable credit may vary. May be repeated with departmental consent.
Credit Hour: 1-99
Prerequisites: instructor's consent

GEOL 4100: Groundwater Hydrology
(cross-leveled with GEOL 7100). Analysis of groundwater occurrence, flow, recovery, and solute transport within shallow levels of the Earth's crust.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: GEOL 1100 or GEOL 1150 or GEOL 1200, and PHYSCS 1210 or PHYSCS 2750, and MATH 1400 or MATH 1500

GEOL 4120: Engineering Geology
(cross-leveled with GEOL 7120). Fundamentals of earth materials and geological processes and their applications in engineering works and environmental sciences. Includes properties of minerals and rocks, rock and soil mechanics, surficial geological processes, and practice of engineering.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: GEOL 1100 or GEOL 1150 or GEOL 1200, and MATH 1500, or instructor's consent

GEOL 4130: Groundwater Modeling
Use of leading groundwater flow and contamination modeling software. Theory of groundwater flow, solute transport, and selected numerical solution techniques. Applications to water resource, environmental, and geological problems.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: GEOL 4100 or equivalent

GEOL 4180: Solar System Science
(same as PHYSCS 4180, ASTRON 4180; cross-leveled with GEOL 7180). Investigates physical states, interior structures and comparative geology of solar systems bodies: planets, moons, asteroids, comets, sun. Solar system formation and evolution.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: MATH 1700 and PHYSCS 1220 or PHYSCS 2760 or instructor's consent

GEOL 4200: Economic Geology with Laboratory
Geochemistry of ore deposits. Introduction to types of mineral deposits, genesis of ore, and current areas of research. Laboratory emphasizes hand-specimen and polished-section studies of a wide variety of ore deposit types.
Credit Hours: 4
Prerequisites: GEOL 3250

GEOL 4300: Introduction to Low-Temperature Geochemistry
Introduction to the chemical alteration of rock-forming minerals in weathering environments and to factors controlling the chemical composition of subsurface water.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: GEOL 4900

GEOL 4318: Environmental Soil Chemistry
(same as SOIL 4318 and ENV_SC 4318). Study of chemical constituents and processes occurring in soils. Topics include soil minerals and weathering processes, organic matter, solution chemistry, oxidation-reduction reactions and adsorption processes.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: SOIL 2100 or GEOL 2400, CHEM 1320 and CHEM 1330. Junior standing or instructor's consent

GEOL 4350: Patterns and Processes in the Fossil Record
(cross-leveled with GEOL 7350). The purposes of this course are to 1) analyze patterns in the history of life and 2) to recognize the biased processes that led to its preservation. We will accomplish these goals by examining two disparate fossil preservation pathways: 1) Konervat lagerstätten: fossil deposits that are notorious for the exceptional and rare preservation of soft tissues and 2) Konzentrat lagerstätten: fossil deposits that are exceptional for the enormous amount of fossilized skeletal material they contain. Through careful examination of both the rare and the hyper-abundant, we can address the fundamental question of paleobiology: how literally can the fossil record be read as the history of life? Graded on A-F basis only.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: GEOL 2350, GEOL 2360

GEOL 4500: Organic Geochemistry
Topics include chemistry of petroleum-forming reactions and their kinetic parameters; use of organic-chemical criteria in source-rock evaluation; carbon isotope fractionation in organic precursors of biological molecules; early history of earth's atmosphere.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: instructor's consent
GEOL 4650: Plate Tectonics
Formation, evolution, and structure of the earth. Rules, causes, and implications of plate tectonics with emphasis on present-day features.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: GEOL 3250 or GEOL 3650 or instructor's consent

GEOL 4650W: Plate Tectonics - Writing Intensive
Formation, evolution, and structure of the earth. Rules, causes, and implications of plate tectonics with emphasis on present-day features.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: GEOL 3250 or GEOL 3650 or instructor's consent

GEOL 4680: Neotectonics and Earthquake Geology
(cross-leveled with GEOL 7680). Introduction to techniques and concepts of active crustal deformation from the geological and geodetic perspectives. Topics include tectonic geomorphology, paleoseismology, Quaternary dating, tectonic geodesy, numerical models of faults, and earthquake hazard assessment.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: GEOL 3650 or GEOL 4650

GEOL 4750: Microanalysis for Geological Sciences
(cross-leveled with GEOL 7750). This course is intended to provide a working knowledge of electron and X-ray microbeam analytical instruments - both in principle and in practice. Lectures will focus on the physics of how these instruments collect data, and how these data can be interpreted. In addition, students will gain hands-on experience with operating these instruments, specifically on their own samples, as well as preparing their samples for microanalysis and interpreting/manipulating the resulting data. Graded on A-F basis only.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Instructor's Consent (instrument time is limited so enrollment must also be limited)

GEOL 4800: Introduction to Geophysics
(cross-leveled with GEOL 7800). Introduction to the fundamentals of geophysical methods and their applications in geology, environmental studies, and exploration. Topics include seismic, gravity, magnetic, and electric methods.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: GEOL 1100 or GEOL 1150 or GEOL 1200 and MATH 1700 or instructor's consent

GEOL 4900: Igneous and Metamorphic Petrology with Laboratory
Introduction to igneous and metamorphic rock associations and rock-forming processes. Emphasis on understanding the evolution of the Earth in view of igneous and metamorphic rock petrogenesis.
Credit Hours: 4
Prerequisites: GEOL 3250
Recommended: GEOL 3300

GEOL 4950: Senior Thesis
Research conducted in an area of the Geological Sciences under the auspices of a member of the faculty. Under normal circumstances, this research should be completed over two semesters. May be repeated for a maximum of 3 hours credit.
Credit Hour: 1-3

GEOL 4992: Geology Field Camp
Credit Hours: 6
Recommended: GEOL 2350, GEOL 3650, and GEOL 3800

GEOL 7002: Topics in Geological Sciences-Biological/Physical/Mathematics
Organized study of selected topics. Subjects and earnable credit may vary. May be repeated with departmental consent.
Credit Hour: 1-99
Prerequisites: instructor's consent

GEOL 7085: Problems in Geological Sciences
Credit Hour: 1-8
Prerequisites: instructor's consent

GEOL 7100: Groundwater Hydrology
(cross-leveled with GEOL 4100). Analysis of groundwater occurrence, flow, recovery, and solute transport within shallow levels of the Earth's crust.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: GEOL 1100 or GEOL 1150 or GEOL 1200, and PHYSCS 1210 or PHYSCS 2750, and MATH 1400 or MATH 1500

GEOL 7120: Engineering Geology
(cross-leveled with GEOL 4120). Fundamentals of earth materials and geological processes and their applications in engineering works and environmental sciences. Includes properties of minerals and rocks, rock and soil mechanics, surficial geological processes, and practice of engineering.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: GEOL 1100 or GEOL 1150 or GEOL 1200 and MATH 1500, or instructor's consent

GEOL 7130: Groundwater Modeling
Use of leading groundwater flow and contamination modeling software. Theory of groundwater flow, solute transport, and selected numerical solution techniques. Applications to water resource, environmental, and geological problems.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: GEOL 4100 or equivalent

GEOL 7180: Solar System Science
(same as PHYSCS 7180 and ASTRON 7180). Investigates physical states, interior structures and comparative geology of solar systems bodies: planets, moons, asteroids, comets, sun. Solar system formation and evolution.
GEOL 7200: Economic Geology with Laboratory
Geochronology of ore deposits. Introduction to types of mineral deposits, genesis of ore, and current areas of research. Laboratory emphasizes hand-specimen and polished-section studies of a wide variety of ore deposit types.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: MATH 1700 and PHYSCS 1220 or PHYSCS 2760 or instructor's consent

GEOL 7300: Introduction to Low-Temperature Geochemistry
Introduction to the chemical alteration of rock-forming minerals in weathering environments and to factors controlling the chemical composition of subsurface water.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: GEOL 3300 or instructor's consent

GEOL 7318: Environmental Soil Chemistry
(same as SOIL 7318 and ENV_SC 7318). Study of chemical constituents and processes occurring in soils. Topics include soil minerals, and weathering processes organic matter, solution chemistry, oxidation-reduction reactions and adsorption processes.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: GEOL 4900

GEOL 7350: Patterns and Processes in the Fossil Record
(cross-leveled with GEOL 4350). The purposes of this course are to 1) analyze patterns in the history of life and 2) to recognize the biased processes that led to its preservation. We will accomplish these goals by examining two disparate fossil preservation pathways: 1) Konservat lagerstätten: fossil deposits that are notorious for the exceptional and rare preservation of soft tissues and 2) Konzentrat lagerstätten: fossil deposits that are exceptional for the enormous amount of fossilized skeletal material they contain. Through careful examination of both the rare and hyper-abundant we can address the fundamental question of paleobiology: how literally can the fossil record be read as the history of life? Graded on A-F basis only.
Credit Hours: 3

GEOL 7500: Organic Geochemistry
Topics include chemistry of petroleum-forming reactions and their kinetic parameters; use of organic-chemical criteria in source-rock evaluation; carbon isotope fractionation in organic precursors of biological molecules; early history of earth's atmosphere.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: instructor's consent

GEOL 7650: Plate Tectonics
(cross-leveled with GEOL 4650). Formation, evolution, and structure of the earth. Rules, causes, and implications of plate tectonics with emphasis on present-day features.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: GEOL 3250, GEOL 3650 or instructor's consent

GEOL 7680: Neotectonics and Earthquake Geology
(cross-leveled with GEOL 4680). Introduction to techniques and concepts of active crustal deformation from the geological and geodetic perspectives. Topics include tectonic geomorphology, paleoseismology, Quaternary dating, tectonic geodesy, numerical models of faults, and earthquake hazard assessment.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: GEOL 3650 or GEOL 4650

GEOL 7750: Microanalysis for Geological Sciences
(cross-leveled with GEOL 4750). This course is intended to provide a working knowledge of electron and X-ray microbeam analytical instruments - both in principle and in practice. Lectures will focus on the physics of how these instruments collect data, and how these data can be interpreted. In addition, students will gain hands-on experience with operating these instruments, specifically on their own samples, as well as preparing their samples for microanalysis and interpreting/manipulating the resulting data. Graded on A-F basis only.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Instructor's consent (Instrument time is limited; graduate students who will use the instruments in their research will have priority)

GEOL 7800: Introduction to Geophysics
(cross-leveled with GEOL 4800). Introduction to the fundamentals of geophysical methods and their applications in geology, environmental studies, and exploration. Topics include seismic, gravity, magnetic, and electric methods.
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: GEOL 1100 or GEOL 1150 or GEOL 1200 and MATH 1700 or instructor's consent

GEOL 7990: Research in Geological Sciences-Masters
Does not lead to dissertation.
Credit Hour: 1-8

GEOL 8002: Topics in Geological Sciences
Organized study of selected topics. May be repeated with departmental consent.
Credit Hour: 1-99
Prerequisites: PhD standing, instructor's consent

GEOL 8050: Research in Geological Sciences-Masters Non-Thesis
Research leading to a non-thesis Masters project. Graded on S/U basis only.
Credit Hour: 1-3

GEOL 8085: Problems in Geological Sciences
Credit Hour: 1-8
Prerequisites: instructor's consent

GEOL 8090: Research in Geological Sciences-Masters Thesis
Preparation of dissertation. Graded on a S/U basis only.
Credit Hour: 1-99

GEOL 8100: Continental Tectonics
The structural, metamorphic, and igneous evolution of mountain belts and continental rifts with emphasis on convergent margin settings and terrane accretion processes and products. Case studies are considered from the Precambrian to the recent.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: GEOL 3650 and GEOL 4900

GEOL 8140: Metamorphic Petrology
Petrography and petrology of metamorphic rocks. Emphasis on textures, mineral assemblages, and mineral chemistry in order to determine the physico-chemical condition of metamorphism.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: GEOL 3250 and GEOL 4900

GEOL 8150: Earthquake Seismology

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: GEOL 8320

GEOL 8160: Igneous Petrology
Studies of the origin and evolution of magmas with use of phase equilibria, physical properties, and kinetics.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: GEOL 3250 and GEOL 4900

GEOL 8170: Radiogenic Isotope Geochemistry
Studies of the application of trace element and radiogenic isotope systematics to petrogenesis of rocks.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: GEOL 4900

GEOL 8190: Advanced Paleontology
Principles of taxonomy, biostratigraphy, functional morphology and paleoecology are illustrated by individual projects that combine field collecting, laboratory examination and literature research.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: GEOL 4550

GEOL 8200: Advanced Structural Geology

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: GEOL 3650

GEOL 8240: Hydrogeologic Processes
Quantitative analysis of role of groundwater in major geologic processes. Theory review of fluid flow, heat transport, reactive solute transport in porous media. Applications to sedimentary diagenesis, hydrothermal ore deposits, petroleum migration, earthquakes, magmatism, metamorphism.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: GEOL 4100 or GEOL 7100 or equivalent

GEOL 8300: Precambrian History
Coupled evolution of the biosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere, and atmosphere over the span of Precambrian history. Topics will be discussed largely in the context of biological evolutionary events and the fossil record, as well as with a focus on geochemical records.

Credit Hours: 3

GEOL 8320: Introduction to Seismology

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: PHYSCS 2760, MATH 4500 and CMP_SC 1050

GEOL 8450: Tectonics and Sedimentation
Global survey of modern and ancient convergent plate boundaries with an emphasis on sedimentary facies and structural styles.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: GEOL 3650, GEOL 3800 and instructor's consent

GEOL 8510: Geodynamics
This course is designed to cover the fundamentals of the quantitative aspects of Plate Tectonics. The study of these subjects is generally referred to as Geodynamics or Geodynamic Theory. This theory revolutionized the earth sciences and the way people think of earth processes. By definition Geodynamics is an interdisciplinary paradigm therefore it is necessary to cover a wide range of topics from heat transfer to gravity. This course will overlap with subjects covered in both Plate Tectonics and Geophysics but we will emphasize the quantitative aspects of this theory in this course.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: MATH 1700, PHYSCS 2760

GEOL 8550: Stable Isotope Geochemistry
Mechanisms and fundamental concepts of fractionation of light stable isotopes in nature. Emphasizes application of hydrogen, carbon, oxygen and sulfur isotopes to igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks, metallic ore deposits, and to natural waters.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: instructor's consent

GEOL 8550: Stable Isotope Geochemistry
Mechanisms and fundamental concepts of fractionation of light stable isotopes in nature. Emphasizes application of hydrogen, carbon, oxygen and sulfur isotopes to igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks, metallic ore deposits, and to natural waters.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: MATH 1700, PHYSCS 2760

GEOL 8650: Thermal Processes in the Solid Earth
Principles of heat transfer in solid earth by conduction, advection and convection. Basic analytic and numerical solutions. Application in Earth's dynamic system, environmental sciences, and geological problems.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: MATH 1700, PHYSCS 1220 or PHYSCS 2750
GEOL 8750: Silicate Glasses, Liquids and Magmas
Theory of silicate liquid viscosity, heat capacity and configurational entropy, emphasizing the role of volatile components. Applications to magma rheology and eruptive behavior. Lab instruction in viscometry techniques.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: GEOL 4900 and GEOL 4700, or instructor's consent

GEOL 8800: Applied Numerical Analysis
A study of applied mathematical analysis of spatial and temporal data as applied in the geosciences.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: MATH 1700 or MATH 2300, PHYSCS 1220 or PHYSCS 2760

GEOL 8990: Research
Does not lead to dissertation.

Credit Hour: 1-8

GEOL 9090: Research in Geological Sciences-Doctoral Dissertation
Preparation of dissertation. Graded on a S/U basis only.

Credit Hour: 1-99