

GEOLOGICAL ENGINEERING, BS

REQUIREMENTS

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UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatestudytext>) section of the Guide.

General Education	• Breadth–Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
	• Breadth–Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
	• Breadth–Social Studies: 3 credits
	• Communication Part A & Part B *
	• Ethnic Studies *
	• Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

Students must complete the College of Engineering Liberal Studies Requirements (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/engineering/#requirementstext>).

Students completing the geological engineering degree are also eligible to earn an additional major in geology and geophysics with no additional coursework. Students must contact an advisor to complete the necessary paperwork to declare the additional geology and geophysics major.

The following curriculum applies to students admitted to the geological engineering degree program.

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS

Code	Title	Credits
	Mathematics	13
	Engineering Principles and Professional Issues	11-14
	Physical Science, Engineering Science, and Geoscience	44
	Required Geological Engineering Courses	19
	Technical Electives	15

	Geological Engineering Design	
	Communication Skills	8-9
	Liberal Studies Electives	16
	Fundamentals of Engineering Exam	
Total Credits		126

MATHEMATICS

Code	Title	Credits
MATH 221	Calculus and Analytic Geometry 1	5
or MATH 217	Calculus with Algebra and Trigonometry II	
MATH 222	Calculus and Analytic Geometry 2	4
MATH 234	Calculus--Functions of Several Variables	4
Total Credits		13

ENGINEERING PRINCIPLES AND PROFESSIONAL ISSUES

Code	Title	Credits
STAT 324	Introduction to Statistics for Science and Engineering	3
or STAT 311	Introduction to Theory and Methods of Mathematical Statistics I	
or I SY E 210	Introduction to Industrial Statistics	
CIV ENGR/G L E 291	Problem Solving Using Computer Tools	4
I SY E 313	Engineering Economic Analysis	3
Select one:		1-4
E P D 690	Special Topics in Engineering Professional Development (Topic: Core Competence in Sustainability)	
ENVR ST/ GEOG 339	Environmental Conservation	
ENVR ST/ PHILOS 441	Environmental Ethics	
G L E 401	Special Topics in Geological Engineering (Topic: Ethics & Professionalism - GLE)	
INTEREGR 303	Applied Leadership Competencies in Engineering	

Total Credits **11-14**

PHYSICAL SCIENCE, ENGINEERING SCIENCE AND GEOSCIENCE

Code	Title	Credits
Select one of the following:		5-9
CHEM 109	Advanced General Chemistry	
CHEM 103 & CHEM 104	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry II	
PHYSICS 202 or PHYSICS 208	General Physics General Physics	5
E M A 201	Statics (C grade or better)	3
E M A 202	Dynamics	3
E M A 303	Mechanics of Materials	3
CIV ENGR 310	Fluid Mechanics	3

GEOSCI 100	Introductory Geology: How the Earth Works	3
or GEOSCI/ ENVIR ST 106	Environmental Geology	
GEOSCI 202	Introduction to Geologic Structures	4
GEOSCI 204	Geologic Evolution of the Earth	4
GEOSCI/G L E 360	Principles of Mineralogy	3
GEOSCI/G L E 370	Elementary Petrology	3
GEOSCI/G L E 431	Sedimentary & Stratigraphy Lab	1
GEOSCI/G L E 455	Structural Geology	4
Total Credits		44-48

REQUIRED GEOLOGICAL ENGINEERING COURSES

Code	Title	Credits
G L E 171	Introduction to Geological Engineering	1
or INTEREGR 170	Design Practicum	
G L E/CIV ENGR 291	Problem Solving Using Computer Tools	4
G L E/ CIV ENGR 330	Soil Mechanics	3
G L E/CIV ENGR/ GEOSCI/ M S & E 474	Rock Mechanics	3
G L E 479	Geological Engineering Design	4
G L E/GEOSCI 594	Introduction to Applied Geophysics	3
G L E/GEOSCI 595	Field Methods in Applied and Engineering Geophysics	1
G L E/GEOSCI 627	Hydrogeology	4
Total Credits		23

TECHNICAL ELECTIVES (15 CREDITS)

Students must take a minimum 15 credits in the Technical Electives category, of which 5-6 credits must be design-focused (noted as 'D' in the tracks below), including at least one design-focused course taken prior to G L E 479 Geological Engineering Design. If students take G L E/CIV ENGR 430 Introduction to Slope Stability and Earth Retention, G L E/CIV ENGR 432 Introduction to Shallow and Deep Foundation Systems and G L E/CIV ENGR 434 Introduction to Underground Openings Engineering, these combine to count as one design course. Additionally, if students take G L E/CIV ENGR 530 Seepage and Slopes, they can use G L E/CIV ENGR 432 and G L E/CIV ENGR 434 to count as one design credit; or, if students take G L E/CIV ENGR 532 Foundations, they can use G L E/CIV ENGR 430 and G L E/CIV ENGR 434 to count as one design credit.

The technical electives are organized into five tracks, described below. Students may select courses within these tracks to focus coursework in a particular area. However, students may complete the technical electives requirement using courses listed in multiple tracks. Suggested technical electives and associated design-focused credits (noted as 'D' in the tracks below) for each track are included below.

Students may take up to 6 credits of directed research credits as technical electives. In addition, one credit of G L E 1 Cooperative Education Program can be used as technical elective.

Energy, Minerals & Mining

Geological engineers possess knowledge and a skill set that serve society's need to manage extraction of traditional energy and mineral resources in more sustainable and efficient ways, develop renewable energy systems such as solar and wind energy sites, and to lead in new technologies to limit carbon emissions through geological sequestration or to develop geothermal exchange fields and reservoirs.

Within this track, the 16 credits of liberal studies can be framed to match those of the Energy Institute certificate in Energy Sustainability (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/engineering/engineering-physics/engineering-energy-sustainability-certificate/>).

Code	Title	Credits
BSE/ENVIR ST 367	Renewable Energy Systems	3
CBE 562	Special Topics in Chemical Engineering (Topic: Energy & Sustainability)	1-3
CIV ENGR/ ENVIR ST/ GEOG 377	An Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	4
E M A 405	Practicum in Finite Elements	3
GEOSCI/ ENVIR ST 411	Energy Resources	3
GEOSCI 457	Conducted Field Trip	2
GEOSCI 459	Field Geology	6
GEOSCI 515	Principles of Economic Geology	4
G L E 401	Special Topics in Geological Engineering (D) ¹	1-3
G L E/ CIV ENGR 430	Introduction to Slope Stability and Earth Retention (D)	1
G L E/ CIV ENGR 434	Introduction to Underground Openings Engineering (D)	1
G L E/ CIV ENGR 530	Seepage and Slopes (D)	3
G L E/ CIV ENGR 535	Wind Energy Balance-of-Plant Design (D)	3
G L E/GEOSCI 757	Advanced Rock Mechanics	3
G L E 801	Special Topics in Geological Engineering (Topic: Geomechanics)	1-3

¹ Only certain G L E 401 topics count as design courses. Please consult with your academic advisor for details.

Sustainability & Environment

Methods for quantifying the long-term effects of development, natural resource extraction, and environmental damage are often neglected or misapplied in cost-benefit life cycle analysis. This track intends to educate future professionals capable of leading the field in sustainable design and construction. The Sustainability & Environment track focuses on quantification, design, and optimization in relation to the use of natural resources and construction materials/methods as well as minimizing the long-term impacts of these activities.

Code	Title	Credits
BSE/ENVIR ST 367	Renewable Energy Systems	3
CBE 562	Special Topics in Chemical Engineering (Topic: Energy & Sustainability)	1-3

CIV ENGR 320	Environmental Engineering	3
CIV ENGR/G L E 421	Environmental Sustainability Engineering	3
CIV ENGR 427	Solid and Hazardous Wastes Engineering (D)	3
CIV ENGR 522	Hazardous Waste Management	3
CIV ENGR 619	Special Topics in Hydrology	1-3
CIV ENGR 649	Special Topics in Structural Engineering (Topic: Sustainable Construction)	1-3
GEOSCI/ ENVIR ST 411	Energy Resources	3
GEOSCI/G L E 629	Contaminant Hydrogeology (D)	3
G L E 401	Special Topics in Geological Engineering (D) ¹	1-3
G L E/ CIV ENGR 635	Remediation Geotechnics (D)	3
G L E/ CIV ENGR 732	Unsaturated Soil Geoengineering	3
SOIL SCI/ ENVIR ST 324	Soils and Environmental Quality	3

¹ Only certain G L E 401 Special Topics in Geological Engineering topics count as design courses. Please consult with your academic advisor for details.

Geohazards

The number of fatalities and the amount of economic loss due to natural and human-driven geohazards continue to increase. These losses may result from various geohazards, such as landslides, flooding, tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. The Geohazards track aims to provide students with the necessary skills to perform analyses that minimize loss of life and economic costs associated with geohazards.

Code	Title	Credits
CIV ENGR/ ENVIR ST/ GEOG 377	An Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	4
CIV ENGR 514	Coastal Engineering (D)	2-3
E M A 405	Practicum in Finite Elements	3
GEOSCI/GEOG 320	Geomorphology	3
GEOSCI/G L E 350	Introduction to Geophysics: The Dynamic Earth	3
GEOSCI 459	Field Geology	6
G L E/ CIV ENGR 430	Introduction to Slope Stability and Earth Retention (D)	1
G L E/CIV ENGR/ ENVIR ST/ GEOSCI 444	Practical Applications of GPS Surveying	2
G L E/ CIV ENGR 530	Seepage and Slopes (D)	3

Water

Water is an essential resource for humans and ecosystems. Water is also linked to mineral and energy resource production, waste management, and land reclamation. Population growth and climate change are creating increasing challenges to this resource. Development and sustainable management of groundwater and surface water, including prevention

and mitigation of water quality problems, require combined expertise in geoscience, hydrology, and water resources engineering offered through the Water track.

Code	Title	Credits
CIV ENGR 311	Hydroscience	3
CIV ENGR 412	Groundwater Hydraulics	3
CIV ENGR 414	Hydrologic Design (D)	3
CIV ENGR 415	Hydrology	3
CIV ENGR 500	Water Chemistry	3
CIV ENGR 618	Special Topics in Hydraulics and Fluid Mechanics (D) ¹	1-3
CIV ENGR 619	Special Topics in Hydrology	1-3
GEOSCI/GEOG 320	Geomorphology	3
GEOSCI/GEOG 420	Glacial and Pleistocene Geology	3
GEOSCI 430	Sedimentology and Stratigraphy	3
GEOSCI/G L E 629	Contaminant Hydrogeology (D)	3
G L E 401	Special Topics in Geological Engineering (D) ²	1-3
G L E/ CIV ENGR 430	Introduction to Slope Stability and Earth Retention (D)	1
G L E/CIV ENGR 511	Mixing and Transport in the Environment	3
G L E/ CIV ENGR 530	Seepage and Slopes (D)	3
G L E/ CIV ENGR 732	Unsaturated Soil Geoengineering	3

¹ Must take one of these topics: "Waterfront & Coastal Planning" or "Lake & River Rehabilitation."

² Only certain G L E 401 Special Topics in Geological Engineering topics count as design courses. Please consult with your academic advisor for details.

Infrastructure

There are many challenges that need to be overcome to address the aging infrastructure of this country as well as to develop cost effective solutions for new infrastructure in developing nations. The Infrastructure track is developed to provide students a background that enables them to perform engineering calculations to design, construct, assess the current condition (level of safety), and develop repair and retrofit solutions for civil engineering structures resting on, or constructed in, soil or rock.

Code	Title	Credits
CIV ENGR 649	Special Topics in Structural Engineering (Topic: Sustainable Construction)	1-3
E M A 405	Practicum in Finite Elements	3
GEOSCI/GEOG 320	Geomorphology	3
GEOSCI/GEOG 420	Glacial and Pleistocene Geology	3
GEOSCI 430	Sedimentology and Stratigraphy	3
G L E 401	Special Topics in Geological Engineering (D) ¹	1-3
G L E/ CIV ENGR 430	Introduction to Slope Stability and Earth Retention (D)	1
G L E/ CIV ENGR 432	Introduction to Shallow and Deep Foundation Systems (D)	1

G L E/ CIV ENGR 434	Introduction to Underground Openings Engineering (D)	1
G L E/CIV ENGR/ ENVIR ST/ GEOSCI 444	Practical Applications of GPS Surveying	2
G L E/ CIV ENGR 530	Seepage and Slopes (D)	3
G L E/ CIV ENGR 532	Foundations (D)	3
CIV ENGR/ G L E 534	Nondestructive Evaluation	3
G L E/ CIV ENGR 535	Wind Energy Balance-of-Plant Design (D)	3
G L E/ CIV ENGR 730	Engineering Properties of Soils	3

¹ Only certain G L E 401 topics count as design courses. Please consult with your academic advisor for details.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Code	Title	Credits
ENGL 100 or COM ARTS 100 or LSC 100 or ESL 118	Introduction to College Composition Introduction to Speech Composition Science and Storytelling Academic Writing II	3
INTEREGR 275 or COM ARTS 181 or COM ARTS 262 or COM ARTS 266	Technical Presentations (was EPD 275) Elements of Speech-Honors Course Argumentation and Debate Theory and Practice of Group Discussion	2
INTEREGR 397	Engineering Communication	3
Total Credits		8

LIBERAL STUDIES (16 CREDITS)

Students must complete the **16 credits** of College of Engineering Liberal Studies Requirements (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/engineering/#requirementstext>).

FUNDAMENTALS OF ENGINEERING EXAM

All students must take the Fundamentals of Engineering exam.

HONORS IN RESEARCH

Students in geological engineering that have completed at least two semesters on the Madison campus with a cumulative GPA of **at least 3.5** may apply to participate in the Honors in Research program. Students may register for 1 to 3 credits per semester. A grade of P (Progress) will be assigned each semester until the student completes the honors in research program or drops out of the program, at which time a final grade is assigned (based on research progress and the written thesis, if completed). This becomes the grade for all credits taken in G L E 489 Honors in Research.

A senior thesis worth 3 credits of G L E 489 Honors in Research is required. The senior thesis is a written document reporting on a substantial piece of work that is prepared in the style of a graduate thesis. The thesis advisor determines the grade which the student receives for the thesis. A

bound copy of the thesis must be submitted to the geological engineering office to complete the program.

The designation "Honors in Research" will be recorded on the student's transcript if the following criteria are met:

1. Satisfaction of requirements for an undergraduate degree in Geological Engineering.
2. A cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.3.
3. Completion of a total of at least 8 credits in G L E 489 Honors in Research.
4. Completion of a senior honors thesis with a final grade of B or better.

Students interested in the Honors in Research program should contact their advisor or the G L E director for more information. Applications to the program are to be submitted to the G L E director with a supporting letter from the student's academic and thesis advisors. Decisions regarding acceptance are made by the G L E director.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree	To receive a bachelor's degree from UW-Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.
Residency	Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW-Madison. "In residence" means on the UW-Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW-Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW-Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.
Quality of Work	Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.