

GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS, BA

REQUIREMENTS

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.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum.

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework.

Language	• Complete the fourth unit of a language other than English; OR
	• Complete the third unit of a language and the second unit of an additional language other than English.

L&S Breadth	• 12 credits of Humanities, which must include 6 credits of literature; and
	• 12 credits of Social Science; and
	• 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include one 3+ credit Biological Science course and one 3+ credit Physical Science course.

Liberal Arts and Science Coursework	Complete at least 108 credits.
Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work	Complete at least 60 credits at the intermediate or advanced level.
Major	Declare and complete at least one major.
Total Credits	Complete at least 120 credits.
UW-Madison Experience	• 30 credits in residence, overall; and • 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit.
Quality of Work	• 2.000 in all coursework at UW-Madison • 2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW-Madison

NON-L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non-L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

Prospective majors are strongly encouraged to seek assistance from a faculty advisor in order to choose courses appropriate to their interests and career plans. Advisors can also assist students in choosing a pathway that is appropriate for their interests and career goals.

BACKGROUND REQUIREMENTS

Code	Title	Credits
Calculus		
Complete one sequence:		9-14
MATH 221 & MATH 222	Calculus and Analytic Geometry 1 and Calculus and Analytic Geometry 2	
MATH 171 & MATH 217 & MATH 222	Calculus with Algebra and Trigonometry I and Calculus with Algebra and Trigonometry II and Calculus and Analytic Geometry 2	
Chemistry		
Complete one sequence:		5-10
CHEM 109	Advanced General Chemistry	
CHEM 103 & CHEM 104	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry II	
CHEM 115 & CHEM 116	Chemical Principles I and Chemical Principles II	
Physics		

First Introductory Course

Complete one of the following:		5-6
PHYSICS 207	General Physics	
or PHYSICS 201 General Physics		
or PHYSICS 247A Modern Introduction to Physics		
E M A 201	Statics	
& E M A 202	and Dynamics	

Second Introductory Course

Complete one of the following:		5
PHYSICS 208	General Physics	
or PHYSICS 202 General Physics		
or PHYSICS 248A Modern Introduction to Physics		

Total Credits	24-35
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GEOLOGY & GEOPHYSICS CORE COURSEWORK

Code	Title	Credits
Core		
Complete all of the following:		
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
<i>Advanced Breadth</i>		
Complete one:		3-4
GEOSCI/ G L E 350	Introduction to Geophysics: The Dynamic Earth	
GEOSCI 375	Principles of Geochemistry	
GEOSCI 430	Sedimentology and Stratigraphy ¹	
GEOSCI/ G L E 455	Structural Geology	
Total Credits	20-21	

¹ GEOSCI 430 (<https://guide.wisc.edu/?P=GEOSCI%20430>) may be taken to satisfy both Advanced Breadth and Communication requirement, but the credit will only count once towards total credits needed to complete the major.

GEOLOGY & GEOPHYSICS COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENT

Code	Title	Credits
Complete one of the following:		
GEOSCI 402	Research and Communication in the Geological Sciences	3
GEOSCI/ATM OCN/ ENVIR ST/ GEOG 335	Climatic Environments of the Past	3
GEOSCI 430	Sedimentology and Stratigraphy ¹	3
GEOSCI 610	Geochronology, Timescales, and Rates of Geologic Processes	3

GEOSCI/G L E 629	Contaminant Hydrogeology	3
INTEREGR 397	Engineering Communication	3

¹ GEOSCI 430 (<https://guide.wisc.edu/?P=GEOSCI%20430>) may be taken to satisfy both Advanced Breadth and Communication requirement, but the credit will only count once towards total credits needed to complete the major.

GEOLOGY & GEOPHYSICS MAJOR ELECTIVES

Complete additional upper-level coursework to reach a minimum of 34 credits in the major. GEOSCI courses numbered 300-692, except GEOSCI 331, are considered upper-level. Complete additional upper-level coursework to reach a minimum of 34 credits in the major.

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- 2.000 GPA in all GEOSCI and major courses
- 2.000 on 15 upper-level major credits, taken in residence ¹
- 15 credits in GEOSCI, taken on campus

¹ GEOSCI 300-699, excluding GEOSCI 331, are considered Upper Level in the Major

HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students may declare Honors in the Geology and Geophysics Major in consultation with the departmental undergraduate advisor.

HONORS IN THE MAJOR: GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS: REQUIREMENTS

To earn Honors in the Geology and Geophysics Major, students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

- Earn a 3.300 University GPA
- Earn a 3.400 GPA in all GEOSCI and major courses
- Complete GEOSCI 681 and GEOSCI 682, for a total of 6 credits, with a grade of B or better.

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.