Undergraduate Studies WKU Geology is home to the Crystal Kinetics Laboratory, the Advanced Materials Institute, and the William G. Reynolds Geological Resources Laboratory, which provide undergraduate and graduate students with the state-of-the-art analytical and computational facilities. In addition to WKU resources:

- students and faculty travel to other universities to perform experiments and develop collaborations
- conduct field studies in Kentucky, the U.S., and abroad
- travel to national and international laboratories to perform geological and materials science experiments at the brightest neutron and X-ray sources in the world

Interdisciplinary The Department is also home to the Hoffman Institute, an interdisciplinary research group that aims to better understand the relationships between karst, landscape, atmosphere, water, and human interactions.

About the Program

The Geology Program is open and welcome to new and energetic students. Please do not hesitate to contact us! For more information about the program requirements, research foci, field projects, etc., please stop by, call, or email at:

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Western Kentucky University
Department of Geography and Geology

Bachelor of Science in Geology
Bachelor of Arts in Geology

Department of Geography and Geology
Ogden College of Science and Engineering
Program for the B.S. in Geology
as of Fall 2014*

Introduction (8 hrs)
GEOL 103 or 111, +113 ***
GEOL 112+114 ***

Core (15 hrs)
GEOL 308 (Structural)
GEOL 330 and 350 (Min/Pet)
GEOL 460 (Sed/Strat)

Field (6 hrs)
Geology Field Camp
or GEOL 380 and GEOG 452
or GIS Certificate

Analytical and Research (4 hrs)
GEOL 270 or GEOL 432
GEOL 399

Spatial Analysis (8)
GEOG 316 (GIS I)
GEOG 317 (GIS II)

Professional Growth (11 hrs)
GEOL 499 and
Any approved Geology 200-, 300-, 400-, or 500-level courses

Supportive (13 hrs)
MATH 136 *** (Calculus I)
CHEM 120/121 (Introductory)
PHYS 180/181 *** (Introductory)

Students who enter graduate school and pursue an M.S. in Geosciences at WKU or continue their education by earning a Ph.D. in the discipline at another institution will be able to apply their studies toward careers that include:

- University Professor
- Paleoclimatologist
- Geochemist
- Seismologist
- Volcanologist
- Oceanographer
- Soil Scientist
- Environmental Consultant
- Petroleum Geologist
- Nano-materials Scientist

Earning a WKU Geology degree will greatly help you in your goals toward working in either industry or in academia.

Program for the B.A. in Geology
as of Fall 2014

Introduction (8 hrs)
GEOL 111+113 ***
GEOL 112+114 ***

Core (15 hrs)
GEOL 308 (Structural)
GEOL 330 and 350 (Min/Pet)
GEOL 460 (Sed/Strat)

Field (3 hrs)
GEOL 380

Professional Growth (8 hrs)**
GEOL 499

Geology electives

Supportive (21 hrs)
MATH 116 ***
CHEM 105/106
PHYS 201
GEOG 121
GEOG 316

A minor is required for this track

*To graduate with Honors in Geology B.S., take additional 12 hrs of geology electives and maintain a major GPA ≥ 3.25
** more courses may be needed if there are overlaps with the WKU Colonnade
*** WKU Colonnade Course

See our websites for course descriptions:
http://www.wku.edu/geoweb
http://www.wku.edu/geology

Careers in Geology

Students who complete the B.S. or B.A. degree in Geology at Western Kentucky University will be able to pursue careers that include the following specialities:

- Environmental
- Petroleum
- Earth science K-12 teaching
- Hydrology
- Commodity/energy forecasting

The Geology Degrees

The B.S. Geology program requires a minimum of 52 semester hours of Geology, and 13 hours of supporting science (no minor required). The B.A. in Geology has concentrations in Earth Science and General Geoscience, and requires 32 hours of geology coursework, 21 hours of supporting science courses, and a minor. In addition to preparing students for immediate employment as geologists, the combination of advanced analytical and applied coursework and experience with modeling will provide a foundation for students who wish to pursue graduate school in the geological sciences.

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- Paleoclimatologist
- Geochemist
- Seismologist
- Volcanologist
- Oceanographer
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