



WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

# Geology

Department of Geology, College of Arts & Sciences

## Major Program

Your geology training will begin with an introduction to the earth's physical processes and materials and a survey of the earth's geologic history. As a Geology major, you will also take courses such as introductory calculus, chemistry, and physics or biology. You will also be encouraged to take at least one introductory course in a foreign language and one in computer applications.

Subsequent Geology courses emphasize the various fields of study within the discipline. Field geology teaches you techniques used in field mapping, and you will also learn to use a pocket transit and other specialized equipment. Upper-level courses include the study of geologic maps, earth structures, and the rock and fossil record.

You may also select classes from a broad range of electives. Some emphasize environmental concerns, water resources, and mineral and energy deposits, while other courses involve the earth's history and the engineering applications of geology. You may wish to study the geology of landforms through elective courses such as Glacial Geology and Geomorphology. A minor in Geology may be earned by completing 16 semester hours (SH): 8 SH in specified Geology courses and 8 SH in upper-level Geology electives.

## Real-World Experience

Many courses have field trips which last from one to four days. Our required six-week summer field camp in South Dakota is considered, by most students, to be the unifying highlight of their studies. Knowledge from the classroom is put into actual practice here. As seen in the photo above, our students look forward to sharing the learning experience of our six-week Geology Summer Field Camp with their friends and fellow majors in South Dakota, Yellowstone, and the Tetons.

## General Education

The Department of Geology offers studies which are based on the broad foundation of the General Education curriculum—classes taken during your freshman and sophomore years. General Education accounts for approximately one-third of the semester hours required for this degree. It includes courses in composition and speech, plus electives from the sciences, social studies, humanities, health sciences, human well-being, kinesiology, and others.

## Faculty

Department of Geology courses are taught by faculty holding doctoral degrees from distinguished universities such as the University of Illinois, Indiana University, University of California at Davis, University of Nevada at Las Vegas, and Southern Methodist University in Texas. All are dedicated educators, skilled in fostering active student participation.

## Scholarships

The Department of Geology offers three scholarships for Geology majors. The Richard Schafer Freshman Scholarship is offered to entering freshmen who hold a high school GPA of 3.2/4.0 and/or a minimum composite ACT of 24. The Richard Schafer Community College/Transfer Scholarship is offered to entering transferring students with a minimum of 30 SH and a GPA of 3.0/4.0 with 4 SH of completed coursework in Geology/Earth Sciences. The Richard Schafer Summer Field Camp Scholarship is offered to junior or senior Geology majors with an overall GPA of 3.0.

HIGHER VALUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

## Honors in Geology

To be eligible for the Centennial Honors College, entering freshmen must have an ACT composite score of at least 28 OR have a 26 or 27 composite ACT and be in the top 15% of their graduating class OR have an ACT composite score of at least 24 and be in the top 10% of their high school graduating class. Transfer students with at least 12 SH and up to 59 SH of undergraduate courses are admitted with a GPA of at least 3.3 OR 3.4 for 60 SH or more. To find out more, visit [wiu.edu/Honors](http://wiu.edu/Honors).

General honors seminars in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences provide students with the opportunity to explore key academic issues with distinguished faculty members. In the Geology major, honors students take courses for honors credit and, as seniors, prepare an honors thesis under the direction of a department faculty member.

## Student Activities

The Department of Geology offers two student organizations: (1) Sigma Gamma Epsilon, a national earth science honorary organization, and (2) the Geology Club. These organizations sponsor activities such as field trips, visiting lectures, picnics, and fundraising.

## Special Opportunities

The department offers small classes with accessible faculty in Tillman Hall. It also offers personalized professional advising, all labs taught by professors, and undergraduate research opportunities. All interested and motivated Geology students at Western have the opportunity to conduct original research under the direction of a faculty mentor. Most students present their research at regional or national meetings with travel expenses partly or wholly covered by the department. Recently, students have worked on a wide variety of topics in hydrology, igneous petrology, and sedimentary geology.

## After College

Our graduates have built a record of success, working throughout the United States and in foreign countries for companies that range from small, independent entities to corporations such as U.S. Gypsum, Conoco, ARCO, Texaco, Chevron, and U.S. Steel. Some alumni are teachers in community colleges and universities. Many of our students work for state or federal agencies. Approximately 25% of WIU's Geology graduates go on to complete higher degrees at universities like Arizona, Indiana, Ohio State, Purdue, Stanford, Louisiana, Utah, Texas A&M, and Wyoming. In the past, careers in geology concentrated on exploration for minerals or energy resources. While such careers are still important, geologists are now finding careers in areas related to the environment, engineering projects, and water resources. Some geologists are even involved in space and planetary exploration.

Since your career in geology may lead to extensive travel, office work, laboratory experiments, field work, or classroom teaching, you will find it helpful to develop skills in communication, foreign languages, business, economics, art, and politics.

## For More Information

For more information, contact the Department of Geology, Tillman Hall 115, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455-1390. You can e-mail [PL-Calengas@wiu.edu](mailto:PL-Calengas@wiu.edu); phone (309) 298-1151; or fax (309) 298-3399. Our home page is [wiu.edu/geology](http://wiu.edu/geology), and we invite you to visit.

## We Are Here to Serve

Western Illinois University is an interactive public university serving more than 13,000 enrolled students. Along with its commitment to students, Western recognizes the needs of the region, state, and society, and plays a significant role in cultural, economic, and educational development.

## Campus Visits

The Admissions Reception Center (Sherman Hall 115) is open most weekdays from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM when the University is in session. Group information sessions are available at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM, and campus tours are conducted at 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM daily. Individual appointments with an admissions counselor, advisers/faculty, or a financial aid adviser may be arranged during the week. The Admissions Reception Center is open from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM most Saturdays when the University is in session. A group information session is available at 10:00 AM, and a campus tour is conducted at 11:00 AM. An individual appointment with an admissions counselor may be arranged. You may schedule your visit or tour online at [admissions.wiu.edu](http://admissions.wiu.edu) by selecting "Visit Campus." You may also schedule a visit, tour, or individual appointment by calling toll free (877) PICKWIU [742-5948] or (309) 298-3157, or by e-mailing [admissions@wiu.edu](mailto:admissions@wiu.edu).



[wiu.edu/geology](http://wiu.edu/geology)

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