Geology is the study of the earth's history as well as the processes that continue to shape the earth today. Geologists view the earth as a place where physical and chemical processes interact within the atmospheric, ocean, and land systems. Understanding these systems allows geologists to protect and improve groundwater and surface water resources; develop wise land-use practices; search for natural resources such as oil, gas, or metals; and evaluate potential risks associated with volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and landslides. Students at University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire can choose a comprehensive geology major with an emphasis in general geology, hydrogeology and water chemistry, environmental science, or marine geology. A liberal arts geology major and minor are also available.

Typical interests and values of geology majors:
- Strong interest and aptitude in the sciences
- Enjoy the outdoors (hiking, camping, traveling)
- Interested in the environment
- Ability to apply classroom knowledge to field situations
- Ability to think in three dimensions
- Ability to use computers to solve problems

Knowledge and skills gained from studying geology:

Knowledge:
Geology majors acquire knowledge concerning processes of the earth such as the formation of rocks, mountains and volcanoes; the shaping of the land by wind, water, gravity and ice; the formation of soils and caves; and the motion of groundwater. They also become familiar with environmental regulations and laws. In addition, geology majors learn about origins of ore bodies and petroleum – information that is becoming increasingly vital for the global community.

Skills:
- Defining research problems
- Ability to develop appropriate research methods
- Ability to carefully observe the landscape
- Ability to read maps and aerial photographs
- Ability to identify rocks and minerals
- Ability to analyze numerical and chemical data
- Ability to use computers to analyze data sets and make predictions
- Solving problems
- Analyzing information
- Attending to detail
- Accepting Responsibility
- Reporting information
- Developing evaluation strategies
- Extracting important information
- Initiating new ideas

Related student and professional organizations:

Student:
- Geology Club
- The Conservationists
- Hobnailers Club
- Sigma Gamma Epsilon, a national honor society for students in earth sciences

Professional:
- American Association of Petroleum Geologists
- Association for Women Geoscientists
- The Geological Society of America (GSA)
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

Career fields related to geology:

Potential Employers:
Many professional geology positions require a master’s degree. However, students with UW–Eau Claire undergraduate geology degrees have been very successful in obtaining jobs with environmental consulting firms, state environmental regulatory agencies, and county land conservation departments. A graduate or professional degree prepares students for additional careers in energy (oil, gas, coal), mining, geological surveying, or environmental law.

Potential Job Titles:
- Environmental Consultant
- Seismologist
- Environmental Lawyer
- Volcanologist
- Geological Engineer
- Oceanographer
- Geophysicist
- Mineralogist
GIS Specialist  Paleontologist  -Geology
Hydrogeologist  Mine Captain  -Geography
Mining Geologist  Teacher  Books:
Petroleum Geologist  Geomorphologist  -Science
Physical Oceanographer  Water Resource Specialist  -Environmental
Environmental Engineer  Exploration Geologist

Jobs You Might also Consider...
Technical Writer  Surveyor
Meteorologist  Landscaper
Hazardous Materials Specialist  Cartographer
Urban/Regional Planner  Civil Drafter
Landscapeg/Nursery Manager

Sample entry-level jobs held by UW–Eau Claire geology graduates:
- Environmental Technician, S.E.H., Inc. in Chippewa Falls, WI
- Hydrogeologist, Meridian Alliance Group, Eau Claire, WI
- Hydrologist, Wisconsin DNR
- Environmental Lawyer, Denver, CO
- Petroleum Logging Engineer, Pathfinder Energy in Lafayette, LA
- Pollution Control Specialist, Minnesota Dept. of Transportation in Oakdale, MN
- Research Scientist, U.S. EPA

Learn more about geology:
Department
- Contact UW–Eau Claire’s Department of Geology, Phillips 154, 836-3732

Getting started at Career Services:
- Meet with a career counselor
- Take interest inventory and self-assessment tests
- Utilize Blugold Career Success Network, a database of UW–Eau Claire alumni & friends available for informational interviewing
- Utilize Blugold CareerLink, an online job search database specifically for UWEC students and alum

Resources at Career Services:
Yellow Section
- Sigi 3 handouts:

Orange Section
- Internship Center Database
- Blugold CareerLink

Blue Section
- Resources on creating a resume and cover letter for a job in Geology

Opportunities to enhance skills in geology:
Internship
Internships are a way to gain hands-on experience in a position that you may be considering as a potential career. To find an internship in geology, visit Career Services (Schofield 230) and speak with a career associate.

Directed Studies or Independent Study Class
By participating in a directed studies or independent study class, students will be able to research an area that they find particularly interesting. Contact your adviser about enrolling in GEOL 395, 399, or 499.

Research
There are many opportunities for students to participate in Research Experience for Undergraduates (REUs) to enhance the breadth of knowledge learned in the classroom. For additional information about REU’s for undergraduates, go to Career Services (Schofield 230) and speak to a career associate.

Additional Opportunities
- Become a troop leader in a local Boy/Girl Scout troop.
- Become a teacher assistant for a professor in the Geology Department.
- Get a summer job as an assistant park ranger.
- Be an intern for a conservatory, the DNR, the National Park Service, or the Bureau of Land Development.