If you have a passion for science and the outdoors, along with a desire to become engaged with other students and faculty in high-quality research and internships in the geosciences, you will be right at home as a geology major at UW-Eau Claire!

“While in the program I experienced a research opportunity of a lifetime in the Swiss Alps, worked as a teaching assistant, and traveled the USA on geology class trips.”
— Todd Lindblad | Class of 2013 | Comprehensive Geology Majors

- Geology - Liberal Arts
- Geology - Comprehensive majors (no minor required)
  - Geology - Liberal Arts
  - Geology - Liberal Arts: Dual Degree Geological Engineering
  - Geology - Earth and Space Science Teaching
- Geology - Liberal Arts: Environmental Science
- Geology - Liberal Arts: Hydrogeology and Water Chemistry

Minors

- Geology - Liberal Arts
- Geology - Teaching

Certificates

- Water Resources
- Responsible Mining
- Earth Resources

Where you’ll find our grads

- Research Scientist, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Geologist, Chevron Corp., Houston, TX: Superior Silica Sands, New Auburn, WI
- Hydrogeologist, CH2M Hill, Milwaukee, WI; Wisconsin DNR
- Environmental Manager, Smart Sand, Oakdale, WI
- Ore control, geologist, Barrick Gold Corp., Winnemucca, NV
- Geology Graduate Student, Idaho State University
- Professor, Iowa State U., Ames, IA

Prepared for Success

Typical positions held by geology graduates include four major paths: Industry and consulting, government agencies, research and teaching. Approximately 1/3 of our students go on to grad school.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, job opportunities for geoscientists are expected to grow by 10 percent between 2014 and 2024, higher than the average in most fields. The integration of observational skills with GIS experience provides a strong base for future job opportunities.
Why UW-Eau Claire

Scholarships

Many scholarships and grants are available to Geology majors. In May 2016, more than $30,000 in scholarships and grants were awarded to geology majors. Some of the available merit-based scholarships include five $1,000 Unimin Corp. scholarships for incoming freshmen, four $2,500 Unimin Crop. scholarships for sophomore geology majors, and three $700 Myers/Willis Field Camp scholarships. In addition, for the last three summers, each student attending Field Geology II in Montana has received a $500-$700 grant to defray expenses.

Hands-On Experience

A nationally recognized strength of this program is the emphasis in field skills. We provide 3-week immersion field courses in New Mexico and Montana. In addition, summer field experiences have been offered in British Columbia, Maine and Wisconsin, and international coursework has been offered in Guatemala, Switzerland and Argentina.

Additionally, our campus’s physical location provides perfect field study opportunities. The Chippewa River and Little Niagara Creek flow through our lower campus, and Big Falls County Park is just 12 miles away. The department owns three SUVs to safely transport students to off-campus field areas. UWEC is bordered by a nature preserve known as Putnam Park, with 230 acres of terrain for studying soils and other learning opportunities.

Internships

In support of the Responsible Mining Initiative, many environmental consulting firms and mining companies are funding paid summer internships, scholarships and grants specifically designated for UW-Eau Claire geology students. During the summer of 2016, 19 students had paid internships. Below are other recent internship positions students have held:

- Conservation Apprentice, Conservation Corps Minnesota
- Mining Geology Intern, Lundin Mining
- Land-use Intern, Pierce County Land Management
- Environmental Intern (wetlands), Wisconsin DOT

Research Opportunities

The Geology department prides itself on engaging students in and out of the classroom. In addition, about 65 percent of students are engaged in faculty/student collaborative research which enhances their skill sets and provides a strong addition to a resume. Students frequently present their research (which is often award-winning) at regional, state and national venues.

Innovative Facilities

The Geology department at UW-Eau Claire, along with the Materials Science Center, houses state-of-the-art analytical equipment that is rarely found at undergraduate institutions. Our facilities include equipment for analytical geochemistry, mineralogy and petrology, sedimentology and hydrogeology, and geophysics and survey. Students gain hands-on experience with professional techniques — a unique opportunity that enhances future employment or graduate school opportunities.

First-Year Suggested Curriculum

- Physical Geology or Environmental Geology
- Calculus I or II
- University writing requirement—depending on placement exam
- Chemical Principles or General Chemistry I and II
- General electives

Related Majors / Minors

The department has a dual degree program with the University of Minnesota in geology and engineering, and in five years a student can graduate with a degree in both geology and an engineering discipline.