Geology

At UW-Eau Claire

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 in the geosciences, you will be right at home as a geology major at UW-Eau Claire.

Research alongside faculty

The Geology department prides itself on engaging students in and out of the classroom. Every geology class includes hands-on learning and field trips. In addition, about 60 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.

Outstanding field opportunities

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.

Great 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. Students gain hands-on experience with professional techniques — a unique opportunity that enhances future employment or graduate school opportunities.

[our graduates]

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.

Places our grads go:
- 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 Health and Safety Officer, Fairmount Minerals, Menomonie, WI
- Ore control geologist, Barrick Gold Corp., Winnemucca, NV
- Geology Graduate Student, University of California-Berkeley
- Professor, Iowa State U., Ames, IA

Growing career field

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, job opportunities for geoscientists are expected to grow by 22 percent between 2006 and 2016, much higher than the average in most fields. The integration of observational skills with GIS experience provides a strong base for future job opportunities.

“While studying geology at UW-Eau Claire, you get opportunities to travel, work with high-precision instrumentation and learn valuable skills that prepare you for a career after college.”

— Sam

Majors

(Requires a multidisciplinary minor or a minor offered by another department)

- Geology, Liberal Arts

Comprehensive majors

(Require no minor)

- Geology, Liberal Arts
- Emphasis available:
  - General Emphasis
  - Environmental Science Emphasis
  - Hydrogeology Emphasis
  - Earth and Space Science Teaching
  - Dual-Degree Engineering

Minors

- Geology, general

Suggested freshman curriculum

- Physical Geology
- Environmental Geology
- Calculus I or II
- University writing requirement—depending on placement exam.
- For test out options, see uwec.edu/Blugoldseminar/testout
- Chemical Principles
- General electives

Responsible Mining Initiative internships

In support of the Responsible Mining Initiative, Unimin, a North American mining company with operations in Wisconsin, is funding paid summer internships, scholarships and grants specifically designated for UW-Eau Claire geology students.

Internships:
- Geology intern, Unimin’s Tunnel City mining operation.
- Environmental intern, Unimin’s Mankato, Minnesota office.

Scholarships:
- Five $1,000 scholarships awarded to incoming freshman geology majors.
- Four $2,500 scholarships awarded to sophomore geology majors.

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Geology note:

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