GEOSCIENCES, MINOR

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

Program Description

The Geosciences minor provides a foundation in the physical and material aspects of the solid Earth, as well as an introduction to field techniques and technical writing. Advanced course work should reflect the students' individual interests. Areas of focus include, but are not limited to:

- Earth materials
- Evolution of the Earth and life
- Hydrogeology
- Environmental geology
- Natural hazards
- Plate tectonics
- Geophysics
- Climate change

What is Geosciences?

Geoscientists want to know more about the big picture of Earth and why it exists the way it does today. They investigate natural disasters such as earthquakes and volcanoes, they explore life in extreme environments such as hydrothermal vents or in far-removed caves, and they examine processes such as water treatment and carbon cycling. This work involves understanding how geology, chemistry, physics, and biology intersect, both today and throughout the Earth's history. Geoscientists piece together a picture of both Earth's past environments and life throughout time. This work can involve field work, laboratory work, or a combination. Ultimately, geoscientists seek to understand how our Earth developed into the way it is today, which can help us understand what we can expect in the Earth's future.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You are fascinated by volcanoes, earthquakes, rocks, glaciers, climate change, fossils, tectonic plates, or the evolution of life.
- You like big-picture thinking and want to explore Earth’s developmental processes.
- You enjoy working in nature or in a laboratory (not all geosciences is outdoors!).
- You enjoy understanding how organisms and species existed in past ecosystems.
- You are analytical and like to piece together clues to paint a picture of past life.