

Geological Sciences



What Do Geologists Do?

If you like combining ideas from different scientific disciplines, you should try geology, especially if you like to work outdoors at least some of the time. Geologists study volcanoes, earthquakes, and sinkholes; how life and the Earth co-evolved as a system; Earth's deep interior; and other planets, moons, and asteroids. Geoscientists work on many of the biggest problems facing society in the 21st century, from water and energy resources, to natural hazards, climate change, and environmental protection. Many professional geologists perform key roles pertaining to safety and infrastructure.

Geoscience Careers

Our majors have an outstanding placement record in industry, government, and academia. Many go directly to careers in the environmental and geotechnical industries, working alongside civil engineers, safeguarding buildings, and the environment.

The job market for geologists is expected to grow by more than

14%

over the coming decade, far outpacing other sciences and related fields of study.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

State and federal government employees conduct mapping, monitoring, soil and water testing, and remediation of environmental problems. A graduate degree expands opportunities, and our majors go on to

top graduate programs around the country, including our own. The student chapter of AAPG-AEG visits with practicing geologists in St. Louis every month and sends students to career fairs around the country. In Missouri, professional engineering/environmental geologists require state licensing, and our curriculum provides solid preparation for the exam.

Geology

The BS & BA Degrees

The [BS curriculum](#) is designed to prepare you to enter directly into a range of geological careers in industry and government, or to succeed in graduate school. You will have a solid foundation in math, physics, chemistry, and geology and will be well prepared for the registered geologist exam, although this is not part of the degree program. Electives allow students to focus on areas of interest such as paleontology, hydrogeology, volcanology, geophysics, and tectonics. We offer study-abroad courses every two or three years, with recent destinations including Chile and Spain.

[The BA](#) is a flexible degree, providing a background in geology for students who wish to eventually pursue a career in law, journalism, teaching, etc. We also offer a minor, requiring 15 hours of coursework.

Field Camp

The capstone of the BS degree is a six-week summer [field camp in western Wyoming](#), including a range of advanced project options, and a four-day trip to Yellowstone and the Tetons. The camp has been running since 1910, is highly respected by graduate schools and employers, and won the Geological Society of America/ExxonMobil Field Camp Award in 2014. Field camp is an immersive synthesis experience that really turns students into geologists and is the highlight of the degree for most students.

Undergraduate Research

[Research experience](#) is an advantage when applying to graduate school or employment, and our faculty is enthusiastic about advising undergraduate researchers. The department provides up to \$3,000 per student in research expenses for senior thesis projects, and our undergraduates have done research fieldwork in Canada, Jordan, Ethiopia, as well as across the U.S.A. as part of their undergraduate research experience. Back at Mizzou, students have access to cutting-edge research facilities and work one-on-one with faculty advisers. Undergraduate students join research groups that include graduate students,

providing support, advice, and encouragement. Many of our undergraduates present at national conferences and publish in scientific journals from their research.



Scholarships

We provide [scholarships](#) to all declared geological sciences majors with a GPA ≥ 3.0 , ranging from \$200 to \$2,000 per semester, depending on GPA. Details and the application form are on our website.



For More Info

 geology.missouri.edu

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Complete undergraduate course listing:
catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/geologicalsciences/#courseinventory

MU Admissions: admissions.missouri.edu

 [MUGeology](#)