

What is Geology?

Geology is the study of the composition, structure, and history of the Earth and of the processes that operate on and within it, with emphasis on the crust, oceans, and atmosphere. The B.A. prepares students for graduate study or professional employment. Geologists are employed in a wide range of fields, including exploration for and development of natural resources (hydrocarbons, minerals, groundwater), environmental science, urban planning, education, oceanography, and other areas related to natural science. Potential employers include the oil, gas, and minerals industries, environmental consultants, federal and private research institutions, universities, schools, and government agencies. An advanced degree is usually required for a career in research or teaching.

See the Institute of Technology section for the B.S. Geology program.

What are the major requirements?

Go to www.catalogs.umn.edu/programs.html and select “Undergraduate majors.”

How do I declare a Geology major?

You will be required to declare a major by the time you have completed 60 credits.

1. Talk with someone from the department: an adviser, a professor, or a teaching assistant, to learn more about the major and its requirements.
2. When you decide upon a Geology major, meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies to complete a Major Program form or One-Year Program Plan, depending on the major.
3. Bring a copy of the form to your CLA student community.
4. If you decide to change your major, contact your student community to learn more about your new major’s declaration process.

What can I do with a major in Geology?

Skills

Geology majors develop skills that are applicable to a wide variety of careers.

These skills include:

- An understanding of the composition of the Earth and the processes that operate on it
- Independent, self-motivated work ethic
- Ability to formulate clear and persuasive messages
- Ability to work well with diverse groups

Employment

Common areas of employment for this major include but are not limited to:

- Government—urban planning, public information, research
- Business—positions in oil, gas, or mineral industries, environmental consulting firms, or utility companies

For more information:

About the Geology major:

Undergraduate Advising
104 Pillsbury Hall
(612) 624-1333
<http://www.geo.umn.edu/>

About CLA requirements, graduation, and other information about majors:

CLA Health and Natural Sciences Student Community
B-18 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-6044
<http://www.hns.class.umn.edu>

or

CLA Martin Luther King, Jr. Program
19 Johnston Hall
(612) 625-2300
<http://www.class.umn.edu/mlk/>
mlk@class.cla.umn.edu

About careers, internships, and community learning opportunities in this major and others:

Career and Community Learning Center
135 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-7577
www.cclc.umn.edu
cclc@class.cla.umn.edu

About graduation with honors:

CLA Honors Division
20 Nicholson
(612) 624-5522
www.cla.umn.edu/honors/
honors@class.cla.umn.edu

- Education—teaching, research, student affairs

Today's workplace requires individuals with interpersonal skills, the ability to communicate effectively, an ability to solve problems, and adaptability. CLA graduates find that they are well-prepared in all these areas and that their education—especially when combined with experience gained through internships, volunteer positions, past jobs, and other collegiate involvement—makes them competitive.

The **Career & Community Learning Center** provides students with the tools to identify and pursue potential careers. An extensive resource room, career courses and workshops, and a helpful staff are just some of the ways we can help.

Remember!

You have not declared a major until you have:

- completed a Major Program form with your major adviser,
- filed a copy with the major department,
- and filed a copy with your CLA student community.

Don't forget: keep a copy for yourself!