

## ABOUT THE MAJOR

The Professional Geology concentration prepares students for a career in Geology immediately upon graduation or for graduate studies in Geology. Students take fundamental geology courses such as Mineralogy, Petrology and Structural Geology as well as more specialized courses such as Hydrogeology and Economic Geology. Depending on student aspirations there are also requirements for Math and Physics coursework. Recent graduates have found work in geotechnical and environmental consulting firms, state and federal agencies and the energy and mining industries, and have been accepted to M.S. and Ph.D. graduate programs nationwide.

## ABOUT THIS MAP

This program map is intended ONLY as a guide for students to plan their course of study. It does NOT replace any information in the Undergraduate Catalog, which is the official guide for completing degree requirements. Use this map to help plan and guide your experience at UWG, including academic, co-curricular, and discovery opportunities. Everyone's experience is different and activities in this map are suggestions. Always consult with your advisors whenever possible for new opportunities and updates.

Visit [westga.edu/program-maps](https://westga.edu/program-maps) for the latest version of this major map.



VISIT WOLFWATCH  
FOR MORE  
INFORMATION.



HAVE A QUESTION?  
CHECK IN WITH  
YOUR ADVISOR!



## WHERE CAN YOU GO WITH THIS DEGREE?

- Archaeologist
- Environmental Field Technician
- Environmental Protection Specialist
- Environmental Scientist
- Forester
- Geologist
- GIS Analyst
- Hydrographic Surveyor
- Quarry Manager
- Sustainability Engineer

## ADD A CERTIFICATE

- Atmospheric Science
- Cultural Heritage Management
- Geographic Information Systems
- Human Rights Advocacy
- Museum Studies
- Stream Restoration
- Wildlife Ecology

## HONORS COLLEGE

Consider joining if you have an Overall GPA of 3.2 and earned 15 college credit hours!

# GEOLOGY

## PROFESSIONAL CONCENTRATION

*Bachelor of Science*

# 60

CORE CREDIT HOURS

# 39

MAJOR CREDIT HOURS

# 21

ELECTIVE CREDIT HOURS



UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA

2024-2025

**TERM 1: FALL**

**C1: ENGL 1101** **3** CREDIT HOURS  
English Composition I

**MATH 1111** **3** CREDIT HOURS  
College Algebra

**I2: XIDS 2002** **2** CREDIT HOURS  
(Recommended) First-Year Seminar

**F: GEOL 1121 + LAB** **4** CREDIT HOURS  
Introduction to Geosciences I

**A: HUMANITES** **3** CREDIT HOURS

- MILESTONES:**
- COMPLETE ENGL 1101 WITH C OR BETTER
  - COMPLETE MATH 1111 WITH B OR BETTER
  - TARGET: 15 CREDIT HOURS COMPLETED (THIS EXAMPLE = 15)

**TERM 2: SPRING**

**C2: ENGL 1102** **3** CREDIT HOURS  
English Composition II

**M: MATH 1113** **4** CREDIT HOURS  
Precalculus

**F: GEOL 1122 + LAB** **4** CREDIT HOURS  
Introduction to Geosciences II

**I1: ORAL COMMUNICATION** **3** CREDIT HOURS

- MILESTONES:**
- COMPLETE ENGL 1102 AND MATH 1113 WITH C OR BETTER
  - COMPLETE GEOL 1121-1122 SEQUENCE WITH C OR BETTER
  - TARGET: 30 CREDIT HOURS COMPLETED (29)

**15 FALL CREDIT HOURS + 14 SPRING CREDIT HOURS = 29 CREDIT HOURS**

**CRUSH YOUR COURSEWORK**

- Take the Intro Geology sequence GEOL 1121+L, and GEOL 1122+L your first and second semesters.
- Enroll in CHEM 1211.
- Get confident with Wolf Watch and your Program Map.

**FIND YOUR PLACE**

- Attend a Geoscience Club meeting or event such as River Cleanup, or a professional talk.
- Find other student organizations that match your interests.

**BROADEN YOUR PERSPECTIVES**

- Explore a new-to-you culture or language through your core courses.
- Make an effort to be inclusive of others as you meet new faces on campus.

**CONNECT OFF-CAMPUS**

- Meet our Alumni at the Geosciences Career Night (Spring).
- Go to events in the Carrollton Community.

**TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF**

- Build friendships with other students.
- Learn about resources on campus such as the Counseling Center, Student Health Services, Center for Academic Success, and the Campus Center.

**PAVE YOUR PATH**

- Be proactive. Go to your professors' office hours, even before you need help in the class. These conversations can lead to connections.

**TERM 1: FALL**

**F: CHEM 1211 + LAB** **4** CREDIT HOURS  
Principles of Chemistry I

**GEOL 3004** **4** CREDIT HOURS  
Field Geology and Geologic Mapping

**T3: MATH 1401 OR 1634** **3/4** CREDIT HOURS  
Elementary Statistics or Calculus I

**P: CITIZENSHIP** **3** CREDIT HOURS

- MILESTONES:**
- COMPLETE CHEM 1211/1211L WITH C OR BETTER
  - COMPLETE FIELD GEOLOGY (GEOL 3004) WITH C OR BETTER
  - PLAN FOR COURSES OFFERED ONLY ALTERNATE YEARS
  - CALCULUS I IS RECOMMENDED IF CONSIDERING GRADUATE SCHOOL
  - TARGET: 45 CREDIT HOURS COMPLETED (43/44)

**TERM 2: SPRING**

**GEOL 3034** **4** CREDIT HOURS  
Structural Geology

**C: HUMANITES** **3** CREDIT HOURS

**S: SOCIAL SCIENCES** **3** CREDIT HOURS

**T1: NATURAL SCIENCE + LAB** **4** CREDIT HOURS

- MILESTONES:**
- COMPLETE CHEM 1212/1212L (D1 COURSE)
  - COMPLETE STRUCTURAL (GEOL 3034)
  - PLAN FOR COURSES OFFERED ONLY ALTERNATE YEARS
  - TARGET: 60 CREDIT HOURS COMPLETED (57/58)

**14/15 FALL CREDIT HOURS + 14 SPRING CREDIT HOURS = 28/29 CREDIT HOURS**

- Additional Information:**
- Speak with Advisor and Faculty Mentor about GEOL 4082 before Year 3.
  - Consider Summer courses for lower credit loads during Fall and Spring Terms.

**CRUSH YOUR COURSEWORK**

- Choose a track: Professional or Environmental.
- Explore courses in the core and follow the Geology Program Map for the geology track you choose.
- Love something outside of geology? Earn a minor or a certificate!

**FIND YOUR PLACE**

- Ask your professors about their research and seek out your own opportunities to do research.
- Start researching career paths.
- Become a TA for Physical Geology or Historical Geology.

**BROADEN YOUR PERSPECTIVES**

- Travel! Explore Travel Abroad opportunities or enroll in Regional Applications of Field Geology (offered summers) to see more of the US.

**CONNECT OFF-CAMPUS**

- Participate in an internship.
- Volunteer with a STEM school visit.

**TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF**

- Take a break from studying once in a while to enjoy events on campus.

**PAVE YOUR PATH**

- Apply for scholarships and REU opportunities.
- Attend a professional conference to network and connect with the scientific community.
- Research graduate school programs if you're considering that pathway.

**TERM 1: FALL**

**GEOL 3014** 4 CREDIT HOURS  
Mineralogy and Crystallography

**GEOL 4082** 1 CREDIT HOUR  
Geological Problems

**T2: NATURAL SCIENCE + LAB** 4 CREDIT HOURS

**F: NON-LAB COURSE** 3 CREDIT HOURS

**S: SOCIAL SCIENCES** 3 CREDIT HOURS

- MILESTONES:**
- COMPLETE MINERALOGY (GEOL 3014) WITH C OR BETTER
  - RESEARCH (GEOL 4082) OKAY ANY SEMESTER
  - PLAN FOR COURSES OFFERED ONLY ALTERNATE YEARS
  - TARGET: 75 CREDIT HOURS COMPLETED (72/73)

**TERM 2: SPRING**

**GEOL 3024** 4 CREDIT HOURS  
Igneous and Metamorphic Petrology

**GEOL 4084** 4 CREDIT HOURS  
Hydrogeology

**F: NON-LAB COURSE** 4 CREDIT HOURS

**ELECTIVE** 3 CREDIT HOURS

- MILESTONES:**
- COMPLETE IG/MET (GEOL 3024)
  - PLAN FOR COURSES OFFERED ONLY ALTERNATE YEARS
  - RESEARCH GRADUATE PROGRAMS AND CAREER PATHS
  - TARGET: 90 CREDIT HOURS COMPLETED (87/88)

**15 FALL CREDIT HOURS + 15 SPRING CREDIT HOURS = 30 CREDIT HOURS**

**CRUSH YOUR COURSEWORK**

- Choose a track: Professional or Environmental.
- Explore courses in the core and follow the Geology Program Map for the geology track you choose.
- Love something outside of geology? Earn a minor or a certificate!

**FIND YOUR PLACE**

- Ask your professors about their research and seek out your own opportunities to do research.
- Start researching career paths.
- Become a TA for Physical Geology or Historical Geology.

**BROADEN YOUR PERSPECTIVES**

- Travel! Explore Travel Abroad opportunities or enroll in Regional Applications of Field Geology (offered summers) to see more of the US.

**CONNECT OFF-CAMPUS**

- Participate in an internship.
- Volunteer with a STEM school visit.

**TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF**

- Take a break from studying once in a while to enjoy events on campus.

**PAVE YOUR PATH**

- Apply for scholarships and REU opportunities.
- Attend a professional conference to network and connect with the scientific community.
- Research graduate school programs if you're considering that pathway.

**TERM 1: FALL**

**GEOL 4034** 4 CREDIT HOURS  
Sedimentation and Stratigraphy

**GEOL 4024** 4 CREDIT HOURS  
Paleontology

**P: CITIZENSHIP** 3 CREDIT HOURS

**ELECTIVE** 3 CREDIT HOURS  
(If Needed)

**ELECTIVE** 3 CREDIT HOURS

- MILESTONES:**
- COMPLETE SED/STRAT (GEOL 4034)
  - COMPLETE PALEO (GEOL 4024)
  - APPLY TO GRADUATE SCHOOLS IN DECEMBER
  - TARGET: 105 CREDIT HOURS COMPLETED (101-105)

**TERM 2: SPRING**

**GEOL 4501** 1 CREDIT HOUR  
Geology Seminar

**GEOL 4604** 4 CREDIT HOURS  
Economic Geology

**ELECTIVE** 4 CREDIT HOURS

**ELECTIVE** 4 CREDIT HOURS

**ELECTIVE** 3 CREDIT HOURS

- MILESTONES:**
- COMPLETE GEOL 4604
  - COMPLETE SEMINAR (GEOL 4501): PLAN AHEAD YEAR 3, ONLY OFFERED ONE SEMESTER EACH ACADEMIC YEAR, MAY BE IN FALL
  - NEED A MINIMUM OF 22 ELECTIVE CREDITS
  - TARGET: 120 CREDIT HOURS COMPLETED (117-121)

**14/17 FALL CREDIT HOURS + 16 SPRING CREDIT HOURS = 30/33 CREDIT HOURS**

- GEOLOGY COURSES OFFERED ONLY ALTERNATE YEARS:**
- Fall, odd-numbered years: GEOL 3603 Environmental Geology, GEOL 4003 Geomorphology, GEOL 4044 Engineering Geology
  - Spring, even-numbered years: GEOL 4083 Environmental Geochemistry
  - Spring, odd-numbered years: GEOL 4014 Geochemistry
- ELECTIVES OFFERED DURING SUMMER SESSIONS:**
- GEOL 2503 Introduction to Oceanography
  - GEOL 2553 Geology of the National Parks

**CRUSH YOUR COURSEWORK**

- Take upper-level electives to prepare you for your career/graduate programs.
- Study for the licensure exam (Professional Track students).

**FIND YOUR PLACE**

- Be a leader in the Program by being a Club officer.
- Serve as a TA again or seek other employment/volunteering opportunities on campus.

**BROADEN YOUR PERSPECTIVES**

- Read books or listen to podcasts to expand your thinking about how geosciences affects people and society.

**CONNECT OFF-CAMPUS**

- Become a member of a geology professional organization and get involved as soon as you can!

**TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF**

- Get organized with important dates! Graduation application, job application, grad school stuff, class projects, interviews....put all those dates in your phone so that you can stay on top of your busy schedule this final year.

**PAVE YOUR PATH**

- Request letters of recommendation from professors (at least 2 weeks before you need them).
- Apply to graduate programs in the fall or early winter or apply to jobs in the spring.