

GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Undergraduate Program Information

A degree in geology leads to a wide variety of career choices.

Students can access careers in the geosciences through one of three concentrations in the BS Geology degree. The first concentration is Geological Sciences. This is a traditional geology curriculum, in which students take geology classes, augmented with calculus, physics, and chemistry; this concentration leads to graduate study in the geosciences and careers in industry, academia, government, and policy. The second concentration is Earth and Environmental Systems. Students take geology classes, augmented with a variety of environmental, economic, and political classes; this concentration leads to careers in the environmental industry. The third concentration is Earth Science Education. Students take geology and education classes, and are certified to teach science at New Mexico middle and high schools after completing the BS and one year of graduate work in the College of Education.

Students earning the BS in Geology, in any concentration, may also earn the Undergraduate Research Certificate in the Department of Geological Sciences. Completion of the Undergraduate Research Certificate includes completion of an undergraduate research project, participation in the department's undergraduate research meetings and one of the following:

1. a senior thesis;
2. a manuscript submitted for a publication; or
3. an oral or poster presentation at a national or regional meeting.

Undergraduate Research Certificates are presented at the department's annual awards ceremony.

Graduate Program Information

The Department of Geological Sciences offers graduate study leading to the Master of Science degree in geology. The department offers excellent laboratory facilities for research in mineralogy, igneous petrology, geochemistry, stratigraphy, geochronology, rock magnetism, paleomagnetism, and sedimentology. Available are a large, fully equipped rock preparation laboratory, mineral separation laboratory, plus computer, geochemical and petrographic labs. Major equipment includes a Gemini heavy mineral separation table, a class 1000 clean lab, Thermal Ionization Mass Spectrometry (TIMS) and Laser-Ablation Multi-Collector Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (LA-MC-ICP-MS). The department maintains its own fleet of field vehicles. Also available are computing facilities that include an HP color plotter and GIS system. Financial support is available to graduate students in geology through teaching and research assistantships and scholarships. Inquiries regarding financial aid should be directed to the graduate advisor. Admission to the program is in accord with the general regulations of the Graduate School.