EARN A DEGREE IN GEOLOGY

Degree Options

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Students pursuing a career in the field of geology or planning to attend graduate school should complete the Bachelor of Science degree. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of this program, a minor is not required. Upon completion of the requirements for a B.S. degree, students are eligible to take the Geologist Registrants in Training Exam, which is the first requirement toward professional registration.

You are passionate about our Earth, and have wondered:

- How can we protect people from floods, earthquakes and landslides?
- Where can we find new sources of metals and energy with minimal environmental impact?
- What can we do about freshwater shortages that plague many agricultural areas of the United States and the world?
- What effects will climate change have on the health of the oceans and on us?

Geologists provide essential information for answering these questions and finding solutions to these problems.

The Geology program at NKU offers opportunities to conduct research which may be presented at a local or national meeting, such as the Kentucky Academy of Sciences or the Geological Society of America.

- Exploring karst hydrology with dye traces and electrical resistivity to locate unknown sections at Mammoth Cave
- Using LiDAR to monitor and catalog recent landslides in Kenton and Campbell Counties
- Doing geophysical studies on the seismic activity of Alaska to better understand earthquakes
- And much more!

BACHELOR OF ARTS

The Bachelor of Arts is for students seeking a dual major who wish to have a background in geology in support of another major, or for students seeking a degree in secondary education.

MINOR

The minor in geology is for students who wish to have a background in geology to support another major, such as environmental science, geography or anthropology.

RESEARCH

INTERNERNSHIP

Paid internships with local consulting companies and labs are available.

In the past, NKU geology students have received paid internships with the Cincinnati Museum Center, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, CTL Engineering, Geotechnology and other local and national companies.

To learn more, contact the Department of Physics, Geology & Engineering Technology at (859) 572-5412 // geology@nku.edu

nku.edu/geology
A Degree in Geology Allows You to Pursue a Career in:

INDUSTRY
Petroleum, Mining, Environmental, Engineering, Geospatial, commercial Laboratories

LOCAL, STATE & FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Land Management, State Transportation Departments, Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, National Park Service

EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS
Secondary Schools, Colleges and Universities, Museums, National Research Laboratories

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
• Professional Geological Associations
• Geological Foundations
• Environmental Support Groups

The Places You Will Go
As geology is a field-oriented profession, many of our courses include field trips to geologically significant locations or are actually taught in the field. Topics include the structural geology of Pennsylvania and Virginia, the mineralogy and metamorphic petrology of North Carolina and study of the caves, arches, landslides and glacial features of Kentucky and Ohio. Summer field courses include trips to Colorado, England and Scotland, and Belize.

The Courses You Will Experience

B.S. majors must take the following:
- GLY 110: Physical Geology*
- GLY 115: History of the Earth*
- GLY 315: Structural Geology
- GLY 330: Geomorphology*
- GLY 335: Earth Materials*
- GLY 340: Intro to Env. Geoscience
- GLY 394: Seminar
- GLY 420: Stratigraphy and Sedimentology
- GLY 425: Economic Geology*
- GLY 450: Hydrogeology

As well as two of these:
- GLY 120: This Dangerous Earth
- GLY 125: Prehistoric Life
- GLY 130: National Parks

And three of these:
- GLY 360: Intro to Geophysics
- GLY 397: Great Britain: Birthplace of Modern GLY
- GLY 402: Invertebrate Paleontology
- GLY 415: Earth Science Applications of GIS
- GLY 455: Groundwater Resources & Management
- GLY 461: Ecology and Geology of Coral Reefs

“..."In Colorado, the ‘classrooms’ rise to an elevation of 11,000 feet in the Rocky Mountains and fall beneath the Earth in inactive gold mines. You will find yourself exploring several parks and seeing beautiful scenery every single day of this trip. Ultimately, I didn’t just gain one of the best educational experiences of my college career so far, I also met some of my closest friends (and coolest professors) because of this trip.”

- Danielle Augustine, NKU geology major

“I entered NKU’s geology program with only vague goals of wanting to work outdoors and to have an interesting career after college. The faculty and classes in the Geology department helped equip me with the skills necessary for obtaining meaningful employment after college – first with the U.S. Forest Service in Alaska, and now with the U.S. Geological Survey in Florida. I encourage students to consider the geology program as it helps begin your journey to an exciting career in the natural sciences!”

- Derek Iles, ('17)
USGS Hydrologic Technician