GEOL393
of 3.0 or better in all courses required for the major. Maintenance of a
one semester must be at least an A-, and the second semester grade
grades of B- and A- or better in
Graduation with Honors normally requires completion of the curriculum,
in all courses required for the major.
Admission to the Program will be by invitation of the Honors Committee,
as part of the undergraduate senior thesis.
Acceptance into the combined B.S./M.S. normally would occur after the
end of the sophomore year. The minimum requirements for acceptance
into this program are identical to those for the geology honors program:
an overall GPA of at least 3.0 at the end of the sophomore year and a GPA
of 3.0 or better in all courses required for the major. Interested eligible
students must provide the following material to be considered:
1. At least three letters of recommendation. At least one must be from
a prospective graduate advisor, who must outline the applicant’s
sources of potential funding.
2. An essay or statement of purpose.
3. An interview with the Undergraduate Honors Director and the
Graduate Director.
Based on this, students may be provisionally accepted into the program.
Students so accepted will be permitted to enroll in appropriate graduate-
level courses. The combined B.S./M.S. program allows 9 credits of
graduate courses (600-level or above) to be counted towards both the
B.S. and M.S. degrees. A grade of “B” or better must be earned in each
of these courses. Acceptance is provisional pending satisfaction of the
following:
1. Completion of the undergraduate curriculum.
2. A GPA of 3.5 or better in GEOL393 and GEOL394.
3. Maintenance of a 3.0 overall GPA and a GPA of 3.0 or better in all
courses required for the major.
4. Successful completion of the General GRE exam, usually taken during
the fall term of the senior year.
5. Formal application and admission to the Graduate School. Your
application for graduate admission is completely separate from
your application to the combined B.S./M.S. Your participation in the
combined BS/MS as an undergraduate does not give you priority over
other graduate applicants.
Upon enrollment as a graduate student, the participant may designate the
graduate courses that should be counted toward both degrees.

Honors Program
Admission to the Program will be by invitation of the Honors Committee,
normally at the end of the sophomore year and normally will be extended
to students with an overall GPA of 3.0 or better and a GPA of 3.0 or better
in all courses required for the major.
Graduation with Honors normally requires completion of the curriculum,
grades of B- and A- or better in GEOL393 and GEOL394 (i.e., grades for
one semester must be at least an A-, and the second semester grade
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of 3.0 or better in all courses required for the major. Maintenance of a

Opportunities
Undergraduate Research Experiences
The Professional, Secondary Education, and Geophysics tracks of the
Geology major require students to complete a two-semester, six credit
senior research thesis (GEOL393 and GEOL394), involving independent
original geosciences research under the mentorship of a member of the
faculty. Senior thesis students give presentations of proposals, progress,
and final results to the entire department.

Combined bs/ms in geology
The Combined B.S./M.S. program is designed to permit a superior
student to earn both the Bachelor’s and the Master’s degrees in as
few as five years of study. Although designed to provide an integrated
experience of undergraduate and graduate work, the combined B.S./
M.S. program is not a course of study separate and distinct from the
traditional B.S. and M.S. Students in the combined B.S./M.S. program
will, at any given time, be either undergraduate or graduate students. The
program provides the opportunity for a superior student to telescope
these degrees by taking up to nine graduate credits (600-level or higher)
while still an undergraduate and counting them toward both degrees.
A grade of “B” or better must be earned in each of these courses.
Under optimal circumstances, one might complete both degrees in five
years. Actual completion time will vary depending on one’s individual
circumstances. The master’s thesis may be a continuation of work begun
as part of the undergraduate senior thesis.

Programs
Major
• Geology Major (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/
colleges-schools/computer-mathematical-natural-sciences/geology/
geology-major-major/)

Minors
• Earth History Minor (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/
undergraduate/colleges-schools/computer-mathematical-natural-
sciences/geology/earth-history-minor/)
• Earth Material Properties Minor (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/
undergraduate/colleges-schools/computer-mathematical-natural-
sciences/geology/earth-material-properties-minor/)
• Geochemistry Minor (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/
undergraduate/colleges-schools/computer-mathematical-natural-
sciences/geology/geochemistry-minor/)
• Geophysics Minor (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/
undergraduate/colleges-schools/computer-mathematical-natural-
sciences/geology/geophysics-minor/)
• Hydrology Minor (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/
colleges-schools/computer-mathematical-natural-sciences/geology/
hydrology-minor/)
• Paleobiology Minor (GEOL) (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/
undergraduate/colleges-schools/computer-mathematical-natural-
sciences/geology/paleobiology-minor/)
• Planetary Sciences Minor (GEOL) (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/
undergraduate/colleges-schools/computer-mathematical-natural-
sciences/geology/planetary-sciences-minor/)
• Surficial Geology Minor (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/
undergraduate/colleges-schools/computer-mathematical-natural-
sciences/geology/surficial-geology-minor/)

College of Computer, Mathematical & Natural Sciences
1120 Geology Building
301-405-4082
www.geol.umd.edu (http://www.geol.umd.edu)

The mission of the Department of Geology is to provide high-quality
undergraduate and graduate education; to achieve excellence in research;
and, through outreach and service, to benefit society by effectively
transmitting the products of research in geosciences.

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2. An essay or statement of purpose.
3. An interview with the Undergraduate Honors Director and the
Graduate Director.
Based on this, students may be provisionally accepted into the program.
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level courses. The combined B.S./M.S. program allows 9 credits of
graduate courses (600-level or above) to be counted towards both the
B.S. and M.S. degrees. A grade of “B” or better must be earned in each
of these courses. Acceptance is provisional pending satisfaction of the
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Combined bs/ms in geology
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while still an undergraduate and counting them toward both degrees.
A grade of “B” or better must be earned in each of these courses.
Under optimal circumstances, one might complete both degrees in five
years. Actual completion time will vary depending on one’s individual
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2. An essay or statement of purpose.
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Graduate Director.
Based on this, students may be provisionally accepted into the program.
Students so accepted will be permitted to enroll in appropriate graduate-
level courses. The combined B.S./M.S. program allows 9 credits of
graduate courses (600-level or above) to be counted towards both the
B.S. and M.S. degrees. A grade of “B” or better must be earned in each
of these courses. Acceptance is provisional pending satisfaction of the
following:

1. Completion of the undergraduate curriculum.
2. A GPA of 3.5 or better in GEOL393 and GEOL394.
3. Maintenance of a 3.0 overall GPA and a GPA of 3.0 or better in all
courses required for the major.
4. Successful completion of the General GRE exam, usually taken during
the fall term of the senior year.
5. Formal application and admission to the Graduate School. Your
application for graduate admission is completely separate from your
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combined BS/MS as an undergraduate does not give you priority over
other graduate applicants.
Upon enrollment as a graduate student, the participant may designate the
graduate courses that should be counted toward both degrees.

Honors Program
Admission to the Program will be by invitation of the Honors Committee,
normally at the end of the sophomore year and normally will be extended
to students with an overall GPA of 3.0 or better and a GPA of 3.0 or better
in all courses required for the major.
Graduation with Honors normally requires completion of the curriculum,
grades of B- and A- or better in GEOL393 and GEOL394 (i.e., grades for
one semester must be at least an A-, and the second semester grade
cannot fall below a B-), and maintenance of a 3.0 overall GPA and a GPA
of 3.0 or better in all courses required for the major. Maintenance of a
general GPA and GPA in geology major courses of 3.5 or above and a grade of A in both GEOL393 and GEOL394 will earn the distinction of Graduation with High Honors.

The curriculum for Honors in Geology follows the University Honors Program Track I: Thesis Option with a 15 credit minimum.

1. The requirement for upper division Honors courses will be met by a minimum of 9 hours as follows:
   a. GEOL497H and
   b. 6 credit hours from the following:
      i. a 3 credit hour graduate-level course approved by the Departmental Honors Committee
      ii. Honors Option project in a three or four credit hour upper-level course from the offerings in the Geology Department
      iii. no more than one Honors College seminar (3 credit hours) addressing a relevant topic in natural sciences. (Typically, this would include seminars offered by faculty in the College of Computer Mathematical and Natural Sciences). The Honors College seminar must be approved in advance by the departmental honors committee.

   The Honors Option Proposal must be approved by the departmental honors committee, the professor teaching the course and the Honors College. A proposal must be approved by the Department and submitted to the Honors College by the 10th day of class in the semester in which the course will be taken and the project completed.

2. The research and thesis requirement will be met by completion of GEOL393 and GEOL394 with grades meeting the criteria outlined above.

**Student Societies and Professional Organizations**
Sigma Gamma Epsilon, National Honor Society for Earth Sciences, and the Geology Club.

**Scholarships and Financial Assistance**
The Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) administers all types of federal, state and institutional financial assistance programs and, in cooperation with other university offices, participates in the awarding of scholarships to deserving students. For information, visit: www.financialaid.umd.edu (http://www.financialaid.umd.edu).

**Awards and Recognition**
- Washington Gems & Mineral Scholarship
- Green Scholarship in Environmental Science and Policy
- Marc Lipella Memorial Scholarship