The mission of the Department of Geology is to provide high-quality undergraduate and graduate education, to achieve excellence in research, and to interact with society and the State by translating the implications of research through outreach and service, for the benefit of Marylanders, the nation and humankind.

Faculty
Chair: R. Walker

Professors: M. Brown, P. Candela, J. Farquhar, A. Kaufman, D. Lathrop (Prof & Dir), W. McDonough, A. Wylie (Distinguished Scholar Teacher), W. Zhu

Associate Professors: R. Arevalo, M. Evans, S. Kaushal, L. Montesi, S. Penniston-Dorland, K. Prestegaard, W. Zhu

Assistant Professors: M. Huang, V. Lekic (Asst Prof), N. Schmerr (Asst Prof)

Senior Principal Lecturers: T. Holtz (Senior Principal Lecturer), J. Merck (Senior Principal Lecturer)

Lecturer: T. Centorbi

Affiliate Professors: A. Busalacchi (Prof & Dir), G. Helz (Res Prof), B. James (Prof & Dir, Affiliate Prof), M. Kearney (Affil Assoc Prof, Prof), F. Miralles-Wilhelm (Prof, Prof & Dir), R. Murtugudde, J. Sunshine (Prof, Affiliate Prof)

Affiliate Associate Professor: N. Zeng

Affiliate Assistant Professor: D. Lampkin (Asst Prof, Aff Asst Prof)

Adjunct Professors: J. Bohlke, Y. Fei, R. Rudnick, S. Shirey, D. Smith (Adjunct Prof), S. Sorensen, A. Steele

Adjunct Associate Professors: A. Campbell, E. Cottrell (Adjunct Assoc Prof), W. Jiao (Adjunct Assoc Prof)

Adjunct Assistant Professors: R. Arevalo, J. Roberts, A. Shahar (Adjunct Asst Prof)

Research Scientists: P. Piccoli (Res Sci), I. Puchtel (Res Sci)

Associate Research Scientist: R. Ash (Assoc Res Sci)

Professors Emeriti: R. Rudnick (Dist Univ Prof Emeritus), P. Stifel (Assoc Prof Emeritus), A. Wylie (Prof Emerita)


Programs

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

Minors
- Earth History Minor (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/computer-mathematical-natural-sciences/geology/earth-history-minor)
- Geochemistry Minor (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/computer-mathematical-natural-sciences/geology/geochemistry-minor)
- Surficial Geology Minor (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/computer-mathematical-natural-sciences/geology/surficial-geology-minor)

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.

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.

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