

# HANDBOOK FOR GEOLOGY MAJORS

(2022-2023 curriculum year and subsequent years)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING AND EARTH SCIENCES

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, COMPUTING AND APPLIED SCIENCES

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contact Information .....	3
Geology, Career Opportunities, & Licensure .....	4
Undergraduate Geology Curriculum .....	5
B.S. Geology .....	6
B.S. Geology with Concentration in Hydrogeology .....	8
B.S. Geology with Concentration in Environmental Science .....	10
Combined B.S./M.S. Degree Opportunity .....	12
Prerequisite Flowchart for Geology Courses .....	14
Four-Year Teaching Plan for Geology Courses .....	15
Field Experience .....	16
Research Opportunities .....	17
Scholarships, Awards, Honors .....	18
Supplementary Academic Information & Professional Opportunities ....	19
Geology Club .....	19
Bob Campbell Geology Museum .....	19
Study Abroad .....	19
Internships and Cooperative Education .....	20
Graduate School .....	20
Fundamentals of Geology Exam Partial Reimbursement.....	21
Appendix .....	22
Curriculum Worksheets .....	23

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Are interested in majoring in geology  
Have specific advising questions*



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Have general advising questions  
Want info about the Geology Club*



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Have general advising questions  
Want info about Clemson field courses*



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*You should contact Dr. Scribner if/when you:  
Have general advising questions  
Want info about geoscience education*

## Geology & Career Opportunities in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

*Geology* is the study of the Earth. It is an applied science that integrates principles from physics, chemistry, biology, engineering, and other disciplines to better understand the natural processes and human influences that shape our planet.

Geology helps people in several ways:

- Locate natural resources needed to support society
- Develop sustainable approaches to energy and resource management
- Predict, assess and mitigate natural disasters and global change
- Deduce the natural history of Earth

*Forbes* magazine ranks geology as the 7<sup>th</sup>-most valuable college major, and job growth in geology is projected to be excellent over the next 10 years. Employment opportunities for geologists are numerous and varied. Examples include the following:

- Environmental and engineering consulting firms
- Energy exploration and production companies
- Mineral and metal industries
- Municipal, state, and federal governments
- Natural resource conservation organizations
- Water authorities

More information about salaries and careers in geology is available at the department's website <https://www.clemson.edu/cecas/departments/ees/>. Upon receiving a B.S. degree in Geology from Clemson University, many qualified students elect to continue their studies by going to graduate school in the geosciences, environmental sciences, or other related fields (see pg. 20 or the departmental website listed above for more information).

### Licensure

Geology is a recognized profession and state certification as a registered professional geologist is available to graduates of the B.S. degree program in Geology from Clemson University. Although registration requirements may vary from state to state, a professional geologist typically:

- has at minimum a four-year college degree in geology or related field
- has passed the Fundamentals of Geology exam
- has four or more years of work experience in geology, and
- has passed the Professional Geology exam

More information about becoming a professional geologist is available at the website of the National Association of State Boards of Geology <https://www.asbog.org>

Also see the Professional Opportunities section of this handbook for details on how Clemson Geology majors can get partial reimbursement for the licensure examination (pg. 21).

## B.S. Degree Program in Geology at Clemson University

The Geology program at Clemson has been carefully designed to help students develop quantitative and other critical skills while familiarizing them with the topics, technologies and resources needed for a variety of career paths in the geosciences. The program is built around three critical themes:

- Appreciation for spatial and temporal scales
- Knowledge of earth materials and compositions of environmental systems
- Understanding of geological and environmental processes

### Degree Requirements

The Geology B.S. degree requires a minimum of 126 credit hours.

- General education requirements: All Clemson University students must complete these. **Note: Clemson does not allow transfer credits to fulfill the Global Challenges Requirement.**
- 3 credit hours to comply with the REACH Act (2021). All Clemson students must complete this.
- Field experience: Because geology is a field-based discipline, all students are required to take one or more courses (six credits) that provide them with field experience (see pg. 16).
- Research requirement: All Geology majors participate in a multi-semester research program that provides them with hands-on experience conducting geologic research (see pg. 17).
- Electives: The Geology degree is flexible, enabling students to choose additional classes from approved lists so they can tailor the degree to their specific interests and career goals.

It is also possible for geology majors to pursue the *Engineering Cluster Minor*; students interested in this pathway should consult with their advisor early in their program of study.

### Concentrations

In addition to the basic B.S. degree in geology, the program offers two focused concentrations that have specialized requirements. The concentrations provide more structured pathways through the curriculum for students with career interests in the following areas:

- *Environmental Science.* The Environmental Science Concentration in Geology focuses on environmental aspects of geoscience and is well suited for students interested in topics such as environmental policy, natural hazard assessment and remediation, evaluation of land use impacts, understanding geochemical cycles, and environmental systems analysis. This concentration provides a rigorous background in the sciences so that students can scientifically address environmental issues and integrate material from several fields to solve complex environmental problems.
- *Hydrogeology.* The Hydrogeology Concentration in Geology is designed for students who want to specialize in areas such as surface- and groundwater systems, treatment of water and cleanup of contaminated sites, contaminant flow and fluid transport, and water resource sustainability.

The following pages outline the requirements for the Geology B.S. degree, the Geology B.S. degree with the Hydrogeology concentration, and the Geology B.S. degree with the Environmental Science concentration. Courses that fit each category of electives are on the page immediately following the degree plan.

**Geology B.S. Degree**  
(Curriculum Beginning Fall 2022)

**First Semester**

**Second Semester**

**FRESHMAN YEAR**

CH 1010 General Chemistry	....	4	CH 1020 General Chemistry	....	4
ENGL 1030 Accelerated Composition	....	3	GEOL 1120 Earth Resources	....	3
GEOL 1010 Physical Geology	....	3	MATH 1080 Calculus of One Variable II	....	4
GEOL 1030 Physical Geology Lab.	....	1	Arts and Humanities (Non.-Lit.) Req <sup>1</sup> .	....	3
MATH 1060 Calculus of One Variable I	<u>....</u>	<u>4</u>	Social Science Requirement <sup>1</sup>	<u>....</u>	<u>3</u>
		15			17

**SOPHOMORE YEAR**

GEOL 2050 Mineral. and Intro. Petrol.	....	3	GEOL 2020 Earth History	....	4
GEOL 2070 Mineral. and Intro. Petrol. Lab.	....	1	GEOL 2910 Introduction to Research II	....	1
PHYS 1220 Physics with Calculus I	....	3	Quantitative Science Requirement <sup>3</sup>	....	3
Arts and Humanities (Literature) Req <sup>1</sup> .	....	3	STEM Requirement <sup>2</sup>	<u>....</u>	<u>3</u>
Social Science Requirement <sup>1</sup>	....	3	STEM Requirement <sup>2</sup>	<u>....</u>	<u>4</u>
STEM Requirement <sup>2</sup>	<u>....</u>	<u>3</u>			15
		16			

**JUNIOR YEAR**

GEOL 3020 Structural Geology	....	4	GEOL 3130 Sedimentology & Strat.	....	4
STEM Requirement <sup>2</sup>	....	3	Geology Requirement <sup>4</sup>	....	4
GEOL 3910 Research Methods I	....	2	GEOL 3920 Research Methods II	....	2
Quantitative Science Requirement <sup>3</sup>	....	3	Geology Requirement <sup>4</sup>	....	3
Global Challenges Requirement <sup>1</sup>	<u>....</u>	<u>3</u>	Global Challenges Requirement <sup>1</sup>	<u>....</u>	<u>3</u>
		15			16

**SUMMER AFTER JUNIOR YEAR**

Field Experience<sup>5</sup> .... 6

**SENIOR YEAR**

GEOL 4910 Research Synthesis I	....	3	STEM Requirement <sup>2</sup>	....	3
Geology Requirement <sup>4</sup>	....	4	GEOL 4920 Research Synthesis II	....	3
STEM Requirement <sup>2</sup>	<u>....</u>	<u>3</u>	Geology Requirement <sup>4</sup>	....	4
STEM Requirement <sup>2</sup>	<u>....</u>	<u>3</u>	STEM Requirement <sup>2</sup>	<u>....</u>	<u>3</u>
		13			13

**126 Total Semester Hours**

<sup>1</sup>See Gen. Ed. Reqs. 3 of these credit hours must also satisfy the REACH Act requirement.

<sup>2</sup>Twenty-five credit hours selected from department approved list. No more than 14 hours below the 3000-level and no more than eight hours below the 2000-level. Courses may not be used to satisfy any other requirement.

<sup>3</sup>Select from department approved list. Courses may not be used to satisfy any other requirement.

<sup>4</sup>Fifteen credit hours. Select from GEOL 3160, 3180, 4030, 4050, 4090, 4150, 4210, or 4820. Only excess hours may be used to satisfy STEM requirement hours.

<sup>5</sup>GEOL 4750, or other six-credit summer geology field camp, or a combination of GEOL 2750 plus a three-credit field course in geology or other approved discipline. Students desiring to become registered professional geologists should take a six-credit summer field camp in geology/hydrogeology.

## Department Approved Lists for Geology B.S. Degree

### 2. STEM Requirement

Courses used to satisfy the STEM Requirement may not be used to satisfy any other geology degree requirement. Pick a minimum of **25** credit hours total from the disciplines below subject to the following limitations:

- (1) No more than 14 credit hours below the 3000-level and no more than 8 credit hours below the 2000-level.
- (2) No creative inquiry courses without prior approval from the advisor and program coordinator.
- (3) No research-based or independent study-type course outside GEOL without prior approval from the advisor and program coordinator, and
- (4) Credit for GEOL 4110 (Research Problems) is limited to a maximum of 3 hours.

Acceptable course prefixes are: ASTR, BCHM, BE, BIOE, BIOL, CE, CH, CHE, ECE, EES, ETOX, GEOL, IE, ME, MICR, MSE, MATH, PHYS

Other acceptable courses, subject to the limitations above, are:

PES 2020 Soils	4
ENSP 2000 Introduction to Environmental Science	3
ENGR 1020 Engineering Disciplines and Skills	2
ENGR 1410 Programming and Problem Solving	3
EM 2020 Engineering Mechanics: Dynamics	3
CPSC 1110 or CPSC 1150 or CPSC 1610	3

*(Note: Credit can be received for only one of these introductory programming courses)*

### 3. Quantitative Science

Courses selected to satisfy the Quantitative Science Requirement may not be used to satisfy any other geology degree requirement. Pick two courses from the groupings below:

Pick one or two courses from: GEOL 4150, MATH 2060, MATH 2080, MATH 3110

Pick up to one course from: STAT 2300, MATH 3020, MATH 3600, ENGR 1410  
CPSC 1610, CPSC 1150, CPSC 1110

### 5. Field Experience

In addition to the courses specifically listed in the footnote, other currently approved, three credit field courses at Clemson University are:

GEOL 3700 Western US Field Study  
GEOL 3800 Caribbean Field Study

Other field courses at Clemson University or at other universities may be approved on a case-by-case basis. See your advisor for assistance.



**Geology B.S. Degree**  
**HYDROGEOLOGY CONCENTRATION**  
**(Curriculum Beginning Fall 2022)**

**First Semester**

**Second Semester**

**FRESHMAN YEAR**

CH 1010 General Chemistry	....	4	CH 1020 General Chemistry	....	4
ENGL 1030 Accelerated Composition	....	3	GEOL 1120 Earth Resources	....	3
GEOL 1010 Physical Geology	....	3	MATH 1080 Calculus of One Variable II	....	4
GEOL 1030 Physical Geology Lab	....	1	Arts and Humanities (Non.-Lit.) Req <sup>1</sup>	....	3
MATH 1060 Calculus of One Variable I	....	<u>4</u>	Social Science Requirement <sup>1</sup>	....	<u>3</u>
		15			17

**SOPHOMORE YEAR**

GEOL 2050 Mineral. and Intro. Petrol.	....	3	GEOL 2020 Earth History	....	4
GEOL 2070 Mineral. and Intro. Petrol. Lab.	....	1	GEOL 2910 Introduction to Research II	....	1
Hydrogeology Requirement <sup>2</sup>	....	3	MATH 3020 Statistics for Sci. and Engr. <i>or</i>		
PHYS 1220 Physics with Calculus I	....	3	STAT 2300 Statistical Methods I	....	3
PHYS 1240 Physics Lab I	....	1	PHYS 2210 Physics with Calculus II	....	3
Arts and Humanities (Literature) Req <sup>1</sup>	....	<u>3</u>	Social Science Requirement <sup>1</sup>	....	3
Hydrogeology Requirement <sup>2</sup>		14	Hydrogeology Requirement <sup>2</sup>	....	<u>3</u>
					17

**JUNIOR YEAR**

GEOL 3000 Environmental Geology	....	3	GEOL 3130 Sedimentology and Strat.	....	4
GEOL 3020 Structural Geology	....	4	GEOL 3180 Introduction to Geochemistry	....	3
GEOL 3910 Research Methods I	....	2	GEOL 3920 Research Methods II	....	2
GEOL 4150 Analysis of Geological Proc. <sup>3</sup>	....	4	GEOL 4210 GIS Applications in Geology	....	3
Global Challenges Requirement <sup>1</sup>	....	<u>3</u>	Global Challenges Requirement <sup>1</sup>	....	<u>3</u>
		16			15

GEOL 4750 Summer Geology Field Camp .... 6

**SENIOR YEAR**

GEOL 4820 Groundwat. and Cont. Transp.	....	3	EES 4010 Environmental Engineering	....	3
GEOL 4910 Research Synthesis I	....	3	GEOL 4050 Surficial Processes	....	4
Hydrogeology Requirement <sup>2</sup>	....	3	GEOL 4090 Env. and Explor. Geophysics	....	4
Hydrogeology Requirement <sup>2</sup>	....	<u>3</u>	GEOL 4920 Research Synthesis II	....	<u>3</u>
		12			14

**126 Total Semester Hours**

<sup>1</sup>See Gen. Ed. Reqs. 3 of these credit hours must also satisfy the REACH Act requirement.

<sup>2</sup>Total of 12 credit hours selected from department approved list. Courses may not be used to satisfy any other requirement.

<sup>3</sup>MATH 2060 may be substituted.



## Department Approved List for Hydrogeology Concentration

### 2. Hydrogeology Requirement

Courses used to satisfy the Hydrogeology Requirement may not be used to satisfy any other geology degree requirement. Pick a minimum of **12** credit hours total from the courses/disciplines below subject to the limitations specified.

CH 2230 or CH 2010 Organic Chemistry	3
PES 2020 Soils	4
ENSP 2000 Introduction to Environmental Science	3
GEOL 2700 Experiences in Sustainable Development: Water	3
GEOL 2750 Field Methods	3
MATH 2060 Calculus of Several Variables	4
MATH 2080 Introduction to Ordinary Differential Equations	4
ENGR 1020 Engineering Disciplines and Skills	2
ENGR 1410 Programming and Problem Solving	3
CE 2010 Statics	3
CE 2080 Dynamics	2
EM 2020 Engineering Mechanics: Dynamics	3
CPSC 1110 or CPSC 1150 or CPSC 1610	3

*(Note: Credit can be received for only one of these introductory programming courses)*

3000- and 4000-level courses in ASTR, BCHM, BE, BIOE, BIOL, CE, CH, CHE, ECE, EES, ETOX, GEOL, IE, ME, MICR, MSE, MATH, PHYS may also be used to satisfy the Hydrogeology Requirement subject to the following limitations: (1) No creative inquiry courses without prior approval, (2) No research-based or independent study-type course outside GEOL without prior approval, and (3) Credit for GEOL 4110 (Research Problems) is limited to a maximum of 3 hours.

**Geology B.S. Degree**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE CONCENTRATION**  
**(Curriculum Beginning Fall 2022)**

**First Semester**

**Second Semester**

**FRESHMAN YEAR**

CH 1010 General Chemistry	.... 4	CH 1020 General Chemistry	.... 4
ENGL 1030 Accelerated Composition	.... 3	GEOL 2020 Earth History	.... 4
GEOL 1010 Physical Geology	.... 3	MATH 1080 Calculus of One Variable II	.... 4
GEOL 1030 Physical Geology Lab	.... 1	Arts and Humanities (Non.-Lit.) Reqt. <sup>1</sup>	<u>.... 3</u>
MATH 1060 Calculus of One Variable I	<u>.... 4</u>		15
	15		

**SOPHOMORE YEAR**

BIOL 1030 General Biology I	.... 3	BIOL 1040 General Biology II	.... 3
BIOL 1050 General Biology Lab. I	.... 1	BIOL 1060 General Biology Lab. II	.... 1
ENSP 2000 Intro. to Environ. Science	.... 3	CH 2010 Survey of Organic Chemistry <i>or</i>	
GEOL 2050 Mineral. and Intro. Petrol.	.... 3	CH 2230 Organic Chemistry	.... 3
GEOL 2070 Mineral. and Intro. Petrol. Lab.	.... 1	GEOL 1120 Earth Resources	.... 3
Arts and Humanities (Literature) Reqt. <sup>1</sup>	.... 3	GEOL 2910 Introduction to Research II	.... 1
Global Challenges Requirement <sup>1</sup>	<u>.... 3</u>	PHYS 1220 Physics with Calculus I	.... 3
	17	Social Science Requirement <sup>1</sup>	<u>.... 3</u>
			17

**JUNIOR YEAR**

GEOL 3000 Environmental Geology	.... 3	GEOL 3180 Introduction to Geochemistry	.... 3
GEOL 3020 Structural Geology	.... 4	GEOL 3920 Research Methods II	.... 2
GEOL 3910 Research Methods I	.... 2	GEOL 4210 GIS Applications in Geology	.... 3
GEOL 4150 Analysis of Geological Proc. <sup>2</sup>	.... 4	MATH 3020 Statistics for Sci. and Engr. <i>or</i>	
Global Challenges Requirement <sup>1</sup>	<u>.... 3</u>	STAT 2300 Statistical Methods I	.... 3
	16	GEOL 3130 Sedimentology & Strat.	<u>.... 4</u>
			15

Field Experience<sup>4</sup> .... 6

**SENIOR YEAR**

ENSP 4000 Studies in Environ. Science	.... 3	GEOL 4920 Research Synthesis II	.... 3
GEOL 4820 Groundwat. and Cont. Transp.	.... 3	Environmental Science Requirement <sup>3</sup>	<u>.. 10</u>
GEOL 4910 Research Synthesis I	.... 3		13
Social Science Requirement <sup>1</sup>	<u>.... 3</u>		
	12		

**126 Total Semester Hours**

<sup>1</sup>See Gen. Ed. Reqs. 3 of these credit hours must also satisfy the REACH Act requirement.

<sup>2</sup>MATH 2060 may be substituted.

<sup>3</sup>Total of 10 credit hours selected from department approved list. No more than eight hours below the 3000-level. Courses may not be used to satisfy any other requirement.

<sup>4</sup>GEOL 4750 or a combination of GEOL 2750 plus a three-credit field course in geology, ecology or other approved discipline. Students desiring to become registered professional geologists should take a six-credit summer field camp in geology/hydrogeology.

## Department Approved Lists for Environmental Science Concentration

### 3. Environmental Science Requirement

Courses used to satisfy the Environmental Science Requirement may not be used to satisfy any other geology degree requirement. Pick a minimum of **10** credits from the courses listed. No more than eight credits may be selected from courses below the 3000-level. Students desiring to become a registered professional geologist should take GEOL 4050 (Surficial Geology).

AGR (ENSP) 3150 Environment and Agriculture	3
APEC 2570 Natural Resources, Environment, and Economics	3
APEC (CRD) 3570 Natural Resource Economics	3
APEC 4570 Natural Resource Use, Technology, and Policy	3
BE 3220 Small Watershed Hydrology and Sedimentology	3
BE 4220 Hydrologic Modeling of Small Watersheds	3
BIOL (WFB) 3130 Conservation Biology	3
BIOL 4100 Limnology	3
BIOL (ENR) 4130 Restoration Ecology	3
BIOL 4410 Ecology	3
BIOL 4430 Freshwater Ecology	3
CH 4130 Chemistry of Aqueous Systems	3
PES 2020 Soils	4
PES (BE) 4080 Land Treatment of Wastewater and Sludges	3
PES (GEOL) 4850 Environmental Soil Chemistry	3
EES 4010 Environmental Engineering	3
EES 4100 Environmental Radiation Protection I	3
EES 4800 Environmental Risk Assessment	3
EES 4840 Municipal Solid Waste Management	3
EES 4850 Hazardous Waste Management	3
FNR 2040 Soil Information Systems	4
GEOL 2700 Experiences in Sustainable Development: Water	3
GEOL 2750 Field Methods	3
GEOL 3700 Western US Field Study	3
GEOL 3800 Caribbean Field Studies	3
GEOL 4050 Surficial Geology	4
GEOL 4090 Environmental and Exploration Geophysics	4
GEOL 4590 Biogeochemistry	3
GEOL 4750 Summer Geology Field Camp	6
MATH 2060 Calculus of Severable Variables	4
MATH 2080 Introduction to Ordinary Differential Equations	4
MATH 3110 Linear Algebra	3
MATH 3600 Intermediate Mathematical Computing	3
MICR 3050 General Microbiology	4
MICR 4010 Microbial Diversity and Ecology	4
MICR 4020 Environmental Microbiology	3
MICR 4100 Soil Microbiology	3
PHYS 2210 Physics with Calculus II	3
PHYS 2400 Physics of the Weather	3
PHYS 2450 Physics of Global Climate Change	3

### 4. Field Experience

In addition to the courses specifically listed in the footnote, other currently approved three credit field courses at Clemson University are:

- GEOL 3700 Western US Field Study
- GEOL 3800 Caribbean Field Studies

Other field courses at Clemson University or at other universities may be approved on a case-by-case basis. See your advisor for guidance and assistance.

### **Combined BS/MS Degree Program**

BS Degree in Geology undergraduates at Clemson University may begin a Master of Science (MS) degree program in Hydrogeology while completing their Bachelor of Science (BS) degree and use up to 12 credits to satisfy the requirements of both their undergraduate and graduate degrees. Because admission to the MS program is automatic, students in the combined BS/MS program are not required to pay the graduate application fee. The following specific requirements apply:

#### **A. Undergraduate/graduate transition**

1. Undergraduate students must have completed the BS curriculum through the junior year (minimum 90 credits), must have an overall GPR of 3.4 or higher to be admitted to the program, and are expected to maintain this GPR to continue enrollment in the combined program.
2. Up to 12 semester hours of 6000-or 8000-level GEOL courses may be used to satisfy the requirements of the BS degree. The hours taken at the undergraduate level towards the MS degree will replace an equivalent number of hours of courses needed for the technical elective category for the BS degree. These courses are listed as “Hydrogeology Requirement” for the hydrogeology concentration and as “Environmental Science Requirement” for the environmental science concentration. For the non-concentration track in the BS degree program, the technical elective category is listed as “STEM Requirement.” Alternatively, 6 of the 12 maximum credit hours used for the combined BS/MS program may be taken as a 6-credit hour graduate-level summer field course which will replace the 6-credit undergraduate field course requirement for BS students. With this option, students are highly encouraged to take the Clemson University Hydrogeology Summer Field Camp GEOL 8750. The remaining 6 semester hours would then be used toward the technical elective category for the BS degree as described above.
3. Under no circumstances can 6000-level counterparts of 4000-level courses required for the bachelor’s degree be counted toward master’s requirements.
4. Graduate assistantships or fellowships cannot be accepted until full graduate student status is attained. Assistantships are contingent on availability of funds in alignment with departmental policy. Non-thesis students are not eligible for graduate assistantships.

#### **B. Graduate program**

1. Students may be accepted into either the thesis or the non-thesis program. Most students will be non-thesis. One or more additional semesters will likely be needed to complete a thesis.
2. The graduate-level credit hours earned by an undergraduate student and approved for use in the combined program will count toward the credit hours required for the MS degree. This reduces the number of credit hours that must be taken as a MS graduate student from 30 to as few as 18 credit hours. Course requirements for the MS degree apply to students in the combined degree program.

3. The total credit hours taken for the two degrees (BS plus MS) must be at least 150 unique credit hours. That is, the credit hours counted towards the BS degree plus the credit hours taken after the BS is awarded must total at least 150. In addition, a maximum of 6 credit hours of thesis research may be counted toward the 150 total unique credit hours. All credit hours to be included in the 150 total that are completed after receiving the BS degree must be in 6000-level or higher courses.

4. Students in a combined degree program are conditionally accepted to the graduate program until completion of the BS degree requirements.

5. Hydrogeology MS students at Clemson University are required to take a modeling course and a six-credit hour summer field course. GEOL 8080 and GEOL 8750 are typically used to satisfy these requirements. One or both of these courses may be taken while the student is an undergraduate. For this option, GEOL 8080 would satisfy 3 credit hours of the BS technical elective requirement and GEOL 8750 would satisfy the 6 credit hour BS field course requirement.

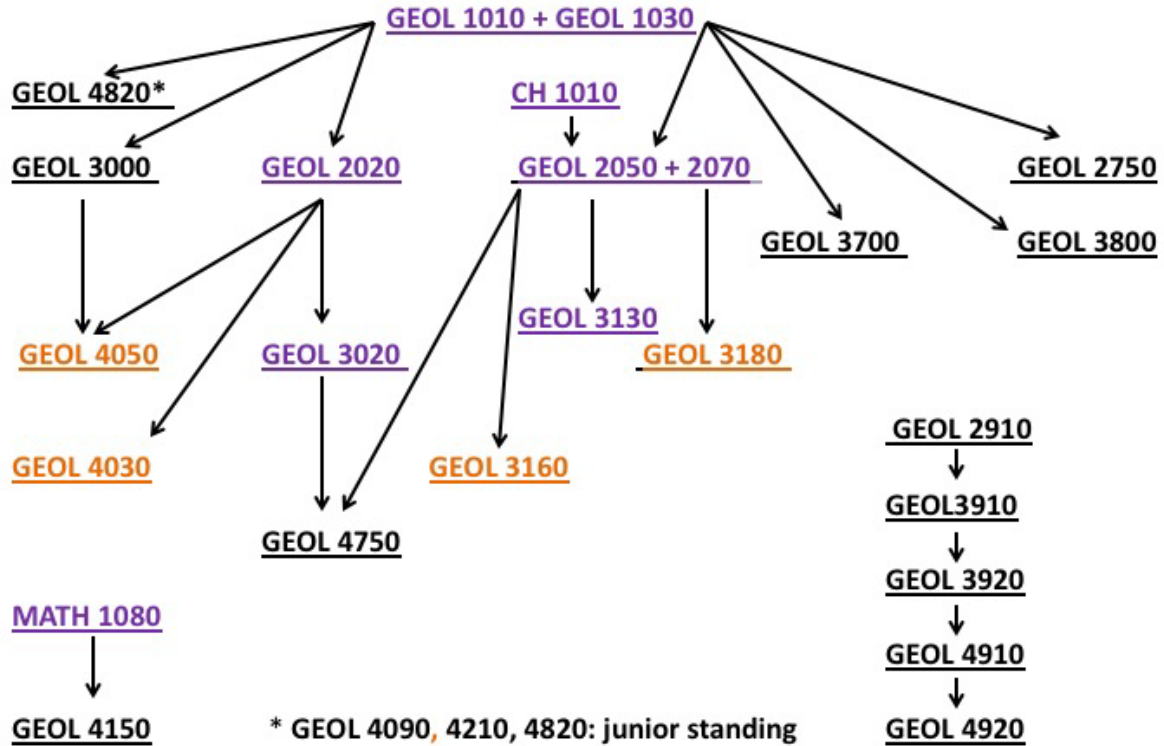
### **Path Forward**

Students interested in this combined degree program should first consult with their advisor. The Graduate Program Coordinator for the Hydrogeology degree and the Undergraduate Program Coordinator for the Geology degree should also be consulted. Application for this program should be made by the end of the junior year (minimum 90 credits), but no later than one semester prior to the expected BS graduation. Application details are specified in the Clemson University Graduate School Policies and Procedures handbook available at the Graduate School website [www.clemson.edu/graduate/students/policiesprocedures/index.html](http://www.clemson.edu/graduate/students/policiesprocedures/index.html)

# PREREQUISITES FOR GEOL COURSES

Purple = required of all GEOL majors

Orange = offered every other year



## Four-Year Teaching Plan for GEOL

Below is the expected schedule of geology course offerings from Fall 2020 through Summer 2024. The courses listed in **orange font** are offered only once every two years. Students should check with their academic advisor regularly to learn of any changes to the schedule.

<u>Fall 2020</u>	<u>Spring 2021</u>	<u>Fall 2022</u>	<u>Spring 2023</u>
Geol 1010	Geol 1010	Geol 1010	Geol 1010
Geol 1030	Geol 1030	Geol 1030	Geol 1030
Geol 1120	Geol 1120	Geol 1120	Geol 1120
Geol 1140	Geol 1140	Geol 1140	Geol 1140
Geol 1200	Geol 2020	Geol 1200	Geol 2020
Geol 2050	Geol 2910	Geol 2050	Geol 2910
Geol 2070	Geol 3130	Geol 2070	Geol 3130
Geol 2700	Geol 3160	Geol 2700	Geol 3160
Geol 2750	Geol 3920	Geol 2750	Geol 3920
Geol 3000	Geol 4050	Geol 3000	Geol 4050
Geol 3020	Geol 4090	Geol 3020	Geol 4090
Geol 3910	Geol 4210	Geol 3910	Geol 4210
Geol 4030	Geol 4920	Geol 4030	Geol 4920
Geol 4150		Geol 4150	
Geol 4500		Geol 4500	
Geol 4820		Geol 4820	
Geol 4910		Geol 4910	

<u>Fall 2021</u>	<u>Spring 2022</u>	<u>Fall 2023</u>	<u>Spring 2024</u>
Geol 1010	Geol 1010	Geol 1010	Geol 1010
Geol 1030	Geol 1030	Geol 1030	Geol 1030
Geol 1120	Geol 1120	Geol 1120	Geol 1120
Geol 1140	Geol 1140	Geol 1140	Geol 1140
Geol 1200	Geol 2020	Geol 1200	Geol 2020
Geol 2050	Geol 2910	Geol 2050	Geol 2910
Geol 2070	Geol 3130	Geol 2070	Geol 3130
Geol 2700	Geol 3180	Geol 2700	Geol 3180
Geol 2750	Geol 3920	Geol 2750	Geol 3920
Geol 3000	Geol 4090	Geol 3000	Geol 4090
Geol 3020	Geol 4210	Geol 3020	Geol 4210
Geol 3910	Geol 4500	Geol 3910	Geol 4500
Geol 4150	Geol 4920	Geol 4150	Geol 4920
Geol 4500		Geol 4500	
Geol 4820		Geol 4820	
Geol 4910		Geol 4910	

<u>Summer 2021</u>	<u>Summer 2022</u>	<u>Summer 2023</u>	<u>Summer 2024</u>
Geol 1010 (online)	Geol 1010 (online)	Geol 1010 (online)	Geol 1010 (online)
Geol 1120 (online)	Geol 1120 (online)	Geol 1120 (online)	Geol 1120 (online)
Geol 1140 (online)	Geol 1140 (online)	Geol 1140 (online)	Geol 1140 (online)
Geol 1200 (online)	Geol 1200 (online)	Geol 1200 (online)	Geol 1200 (online)
Geol 3700	Geol 3700	Geol 3700	Geol 3700
Geol 3800	Geol 3800	Geol 3800	Geol 3800
Geol 4210	Geol 4210	Geol 4210	Geol 4210
Geol 4750	Geol 4750	Geol 4750	Geol 4750



## FIELD EXPERIENCE

Students pursuing the B.S. degree in geology must have at least six credits of field experience. For students planning to take a six-credit summer field camp, the requirement is completed during the summer before or after their senior year. It is common for geology students to attend a summer field camp after the spring semester of their senior year and then graduate in August.

Several field courses are offered through the Clemson geology program:

- GEOL 2750 Field Methods (3 credits) - This course teaches students hands-on methods, on-site observational skills, and how to collect and record pertinent information while working in the field. Taught in the fall semester each year.
- GEOL 3700 Western US Field Study (3 credits) - Students travel to the western United States to hike through famous geologic formations, allowing them to apply what they have learned in the classroom to a real-world setting. Offered every summer.
- GEOL 3800 Caribbean Field Studies (3 credits) - Students travel to the Caribbean to participate in projects involving coastal processes, volcanology, and nearshore environments. Taught in odd-numbered years during the spring.
- GEOL 4750 Summer Geology Field Camp (6 credits) - This course is a hydrogeology-oriented field camp. Students work in both field and laboratory settings collecting and processing hydrologic data from sites near Clemson and also from other areas in the Southeast. GEOL 4750 is required for students in the Hydrogeology Concentration. Offered annually during the first summer session.
- Students can also submit a request to take a field course offered through another program and/or university. This is a good option for students who want to gain field experience in a specialty not covered by one of the field courses described above.

Students interested in becoming licensed as a professional geologist should plan to take a six-credit summer geology field camp, either GEOL 4750 or a more traditional summer field camp from another university.

A comprehensive listing of geology field camps and related information is available at <http://geology.com/field-camp.shtml>. Internet websites of other organizations (e.g., National Association of Geoscience Teachers, American Geosciences Institute, Geological Society of America) have information on scholarships and other means to help offset the cost of summer field camps.

## RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

**Group Research.** All undergraduate geology students at Clemson are required to take the 11-credit, six-semester sequence of research courses:

- Sophomore year: GEOL 2910 (1 credit each semester)
- Junior year: GEOL 3910/3920 (2 credits each semester)
- Senior year: GEOL 4910/4920 (3 credits each semester)

Many of the mentored projects are multi-year in duration and students may choose to work on the same project all three years if it is continuing.

Student learning objectives over the five semesters include basics of conducting geological research, writing a research proposal, and organizing research results into effective written reports and oral presentations. General education competencies for academic and professional development, oral communication, and ethical judgment are all incorporated into the six-semester course sequence.

**Independent Research.** Highly motivated students are encouraged to conduct individual research on a topic of interest to them. GEOL 4110 (Research Problems) provides students the opportunity to obtain academic credit for their individual research projects under the supervision of a geology faculty member. This variable credit course is available to seniors or, with special consent of the instructor, junior geology majors.

In general, a student's individual research project should be within the expertise area of one of the geology faculty, who then will serve as the major advisor. The student and his/her major advisor will work together to formulate and design the research project based on their collaborative interests. The project itself may involve field, laboratory, or library research, and typically some combination of the three. Once an advisor is selected and the research topic is approved, the student can register for the appropriate number of credits of GEOL 4110. Depending on the scope of the project, credits may range from one to three each semester (1 credit hour equals about 30 hours of work throughout the semester). GEOL 4110 may be repeated for a total maximum of six credits. The research topic from one semester of GEOL 4110 may be continued in a subsequent semester with the same advisor or students may select a different topic and/or advisor.

## SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

### Geology Scholarships & Financial Assistance

In addition to the general scholarships available to all undergraduate students at Clemson University, other sources of financial assistance for geology students may be available from organizations outside of Clemson University. Students are encouraged to visit the websites of these organizations (e.g., National Association of Geoscience Teachers, American Geosciences Institute, Geological Society of America) to learn about the opportunities available and to obtain applications. Examples include scholarships from American Geoscience Institute for underrepresented groups in the geosciences and from the Mayo Educational Foundation to juniors and seniors pursuing a degree in the earth sciences and who are affiliated with a Southeast Federation Mineralogical Society (e.g., Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society). As noted on page 16, scholarships may be available to help offset the cost of summer field camps.

### Geology Student Awards

Each year the department gives two awards to undergraduate students majoring in Geology.

- The **Thomas F. Logan, Jr. Geology Merit Award** is presented to a senior student with outstanding achievement in geology and possessing personal attributes necessary for successful accomplishments in the discipline. The award is given in memory of Thomas F. Logan, Jr., a 1965 geology graduate of Clemson University, who died in an automobile accident just prior to receiving his PhD from the University of Georgia.
- The **Jean G. Stillwell Award** is presented to the outstanding junior student in geology. The award was established in the memory of Jean G. Stillwell, a 1982 geology graduate of Clemson University who then taught as a Lecturer in Geology until her death from cancer in 1993.

### Departmental Honors in Geology

Students enrolled in the Calhoun College Honors Program may pursue Departmental Honors in Geology. Interested students should discuss the matter with the Geology program coordinator.

Requirements for Departmental Honors in Geology:

1-Take any 3 GEOL courses for Honors credit besides GEOL 4110. Students may ask instructors about creating an Honors contract for a course that does not typically offer an HON section.

2-Take 3 credit hours of GEOL 4110 (Independent Research). This can be either a section that is routinely offered or a special section set up with an instructor's permission. The hours can be split up over multiple semesters with the instructor's permission. The work done cannot be associated with the student's senior thesis research.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY ACADEMIC INFORMATION AND PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Geology Club**

The Clemson Geology Club is an official University student organization that provides members with a variety of educational, professional, and social experiences. Membership is open to any Clemson student interested in geology, and undergraduate geology students are particularly encouraged to join the club and participate in its activities. Meeting times, agendas, optional field trips, etc., typically are scheduled by the club officers in consultation with the faculty advisor. Past field trips have visited Mammoth Cave and the Great Smoky Mountains National Parks, Linville Gorge, Graves Mountain Mine, Diamond Hill Mine, Congaree National Park, the Atlantic Coastal Plain, as well as the annual Carolina Geological Society field trip held each fall.

### **Bob Campbell Geology Museum**

The Bob Campbell Geology Museum (<http://www.clemson.edu/public/geomuseum/>) is located in the South Carolina Botanical Garden at Clemson University. First established as the Geology Museum in Brackett Hall in 1989, a rapid increase in the number of visitors soon led to the creation of a separate museum building to house the collections. Clemson alumnus Bob Campbell generously donated funds to construct the new museum which now bears his name. The various collections maintained by the museum have been acquired over the years through many individual gifts representing specimens from around the world.

Volunteers, work-study students, and interns are welcome to assist and learn at the museum. Geology students are particularly encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities.

### **Study Abroad**

Academic, personal and career benefits resulting from study abroad programs are well established. For example, many employers are seeking employees with international skills and experiences because increased globalization has changed the way the world works. Study Abroad opportunities expand students' learning environments beyond the classroom into unique and often challenging cultural contexts. The Study Abroad office at Clemson University (<http://www.clemson.edu/studyabroad/>) provides operational support to student engagement programs outside the U.S. and enhances the University's international focus through development of activities, programs, exchanges and events that foster global and intercultural awareness, knowledge and understanding among faculty, staff, and students.

Students interested in pursuing a potential Study Abroad program are encouraged to visit their website for information on how to get started, applying for a program, and learning about the resources that may be available. It is highly recommended that Study Abroad be done during your freshmen or sophomore years; doing so later is difficult because students may have trouble getting into higher level courses at other universities. Studying abroad during your junior or senior year also disrupts the research course sequence that all geology majors are required to complete (see Research Opportunities section).

## **Internships and Cooperative Education**

Internship opportunities can provide students with both financial assistance and the added benefit of receiving practical experience in the geology field. Governmental organizations such as the US Department of Energy, US Geological Survey, US Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Park Service typically sponsor summer internships, as do a number of other organizations (e.g., Student Conservation Association).

The Cooperative Education Program at Clemson University is a planned program in which students alternate semesters of academic study with work semesters at a business, agency, or organization. Work periods normally take place during the sophomore and junior years, including summers. Participation in the co-op program will prolong your education by one or more semesters but can be an excellent way to obtain relevant work experience. Often, a co-op experience can give you an “inside track” on job opportunities.

Students interested in seeking an internship and/or co-op experience should begin their search using the resources available at the Clemson University Cooperative Education Office ([http://career.clemson.edu/cooperative\\_education/](http://career.clemson.edu/cooperative_education/)) and the Michelin Career Center ([http://career.clemson.edu/michelin\\_career\\_center/](http://career.clemson.edu/michelin_career_center/)). In addition to the information available there, students should plan to broadly search for other opportunities via the internet.

## **Graduate School**

Students considering graduate school should begin planning early, preferably before their senior year. Talking with your advisor and other geology professors may help you narrow down the field or fields that most interest you, which in turn may enable you to better select elective courses to prepare you for that particular field or fields. Discussions with professors also may help you decide which universities to consider for your graduate studies.

Information about graduate school programs are often posted in Brackett Hall, but an internet search of suitable programs also will be beneficial. You should thoroughly review the websites of promising university graduate programs to learn about their admission requirements, application procedures and deadlines, opportunities for fellowships and research/teaching assistantships, etc. In general, most universities will require that you submit:

- Formal application form
- Two or more letters of recommendation
- Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores
- Application fee
- Official transcript(s)

Additional information about the GRE is available at <http://www.ets.org/gre>. It is generally a good idea to take the GRE early in the fall semester of your senior year so that you can retake the exam, if necessary, and still meet application deadlines.

Making personal contact (e.g., typically at the beginning with a graduate program coordinator by email or phone) is often beneficial and can be done before or after submitting an official application. Have a prepared list of questions you want to ask. If at all possible, arrange a visit to the schools so you can see the departments and meet with faculty, especially if you have been offered admission to more than one program. Be sure to talk with some current graduate students, especially those working in your field(s) of interest, to see how they like the environment of the school and program.

## **Fundamentals of Geology Exam Partial Reimbursement**

Students may be reimbursed for \$50 of the cost to take the Fundamentals of Geology exam. Students are strongly encouraged to take the exam and seek reimbursement while they are still enrolled as a student.

In order to receive reimbursement, an itemized receipt showing your registration, date of exam, and payment for the exam is required. Unless requested otherwise, the reimbursement will be sent to the official address the student has on file with the university. These requests are to be submitted to the main Brackett Hall office, room 445.

Students may still seek reimbursement after graduation but may be required to register as a vendor in Clemson's procurement system, Buyways, in order to receive reimbursement. Students must submit any reimbursement requests within one year of graduation to qualify.

# APPENDIX

The following worksheets provide different ways for students to track their progress towards a degree in geology.

These worksheets are to be used in conjunction with the lists of approved courses found on pgs. 6-11 of this handbook. Note that Clemson's DegreeWorks program is the official record of a student's academic progress towards graduation.

## **Pages 23-25**

These worksheets provide a detailed description of the course requirements.

Note that the classes do not all have to be taken during the exact semesters shown on the worksheet; many classes can be taken at different points during a student's academic career. Students should always double-check the prerequisites (see pg. 14) for courses to ensure they plan to take classes in the required order.

Note: Clemson University does not permit transfer courses to fulfill the Global challenges Requirement.



## Geology B.S. Degree 2022 - 2023 Curriculum

FRESHMAN YEAR			
___ CH 1010 General Chemistry	4	___ CH 1020 General Chemistry	4
___ ENGL 1030 Accelerated Composition	3	___ GEOL 1120 Earth Resources	3
___ GEOL 1010 Physical Geology	3	___ MATH 1080 Calculus of One Variable II	4
___ GEOL 1030 Physical Geology Lab	1	___ A&H/SS Reqt <sup>1</sup> _____	3
___ MATH 1060 Calculus of One Variable I	4	___ A&H/SS Reqt <sup>1</sup> _____	3
	15		17
SOPHOMORE YEAR			
___ GEOL 2050 Mineralogy and Intro. Petrology	3	___ GEOL 2020 Earth History	4
___ GEOL 2070 Mineral. And Intro. Petrology Lab	1	___ GEOL 2910 Introduction to Research I	1
___ A&H/SS Reqt <sup>1</sup> _____	3	___ STEM Reqt <sup>2</sup> _____	4
___ PHYS 1220 Physics with Calculus I	3	___ STEM Reqt <sup>2</sup> _____	3
___ STEM Reqt <sup>2</sup> _____	3	___ Quantitative Science <sup>3</sup> _____	3
___ A&H/SS Reqt <sup>1</sup> _____	3		
	16		15
JUNIOR YEAR			
___ GEOL 3020 Structural Geology	4	___ Geology Reqt <sup>4</sup> _____	3
___ GEOL 3910 Research Methods I	2	___ Geology Reqt <sup>4</sup> _____	4
___ Quantitative Science <sup>3</sup> _____	3	___ GEOL 3920 Research Methods II	2
___ STEM Reqt <sup>2</sup> _____	3	___ GEOL 3130 Sedimentology & Stratigraphy	4
___ Global Challenges Reqt <sup>1</sup> _____	3	___ Global Challenges Reqt <sup>1</sup> _____	3
	15		16
SUMMER FIELD EXPERIENCE			
___ Field Experience <sup>5</sup>	6		
SENIOR YEAR			
___ GEOL 4910 Research Synthesis I	3	___ GEOL 4920 Research Synthesis II	3
___ Geology Reqt <sup>1</sup> _____	4	___ Geology Reqt <sup>1</sup> _____	4
___ STEM Reqt <sup>2</sup> _____	3	___ STEM Reqt <sup>2</sup> _____	3
___ STEM Reqt <sup>2</sup> _____	3	___ STEM Reqt <sup>2</sup> _____	3
	13		13
126 Total Semester Hours			
<p>1 See General Education Requirements. Three of these credits must also satisfy the REACH Act Requirement.</p> <p>2 Twenty-five credit hours selected from department approved list. No more than 14 hours below the 3000-level and no more than 8 hours below the 2000-level. Courses cannot be used to satisfy any other requirement.</p> <p>3 Select from department approved list. Courses cannot be used to satisfy any other requirement.</p> <p>4 Fifteen credit hours. Select from GEOL 3130, 3160, 3180, 4030, 4050, 4090, 4150, 4210, or 4820. Only excess hours can be used to satisfy STEM requirement hours.</p> <p>5 GEOL 4750, or other 6 or hr summer geology field camp, or a combination of GEOL 2750 plus a three credit hour field course in geology or other approved discipline. Students desiring to become registered professional geologists should take a six-credit hour summer field camp.</p>		<p>Total # of General Education Hours Completed: ___</p>	

## Geology B.S. Degree 2022 - 2023 Curriculum

HYDROGEOLOGY CONCENTRATION			
FRESHMAN YEAR			
___ CH 1010 General Chemistry	4	___ CH 1020 General Chemistry	4
___ ENGL 1030 Accelerated Composition	3	___ GEOL 1120 Earth Resources	3
___ GEOL 1010 Physical Geology	3	___ MATH 1080 Calculus of One Variable II	4
___ GEOL 1030 Physical Geology Lab	1	___ A&H/SS Reqt <sup>1</sup> _____	3
___ MATH 1060 Calculus of One Variable I	4	___ A&H/SS Reqt <sup>1</sup> _____	3
15		17	
SOPHOMORE YEAR			
___ GEOL 2050 Mineralogy and Intro Petrology	3	___ GEOL 2020 Earth History	4
___ GEOL 2070 Mineralogy and Intro Petrology Lab	1	___ GEOL 2910 Introduction to Research I	1
___ A&H/SS Reqt <sup>1</sup> _____	3	___ Statistics <sup>3</sup> _____	3
___ PHYS 1220 Physics with Calculus I	3	___ PHYS 2210 Physics with Calculus II	3
___ PHYS 1240 Physics Lab I	1	___ Hydrogeology Concentration Reqt <sup>2</sup> : _____	3
___ Hydrogeology Concentration Reqt <sup>2</sup> : _____	3	___ A&H/SS Reqt <sup>1</sup> _____	3
14		17	
JUNIOR YEAR			
___ GEOL 3000 Environmental Geology	3	___ GEOL 3130 Sedimentology and Stratigraphy	4
___ GEOL 3020 Structural Geology	4	___ GEOL 3180 Introduction to Geochemistry	3
___ GEOL 3910 Research Methods I	2	___ GEOL 3920 Research Methods II	2
___ GEOL 4150 Analysis of Geological Processes <sup>4</sup>	4	___ GEOL 4210 GIS Applications in Geology	3
___ Global Challenges Reqt <sup>1</sup> _____	3	___ Global Challenges Reqt <sup>1</sup> _____	3
16		15	
SUMMER FIELD EXPERIENCE			
___ GEOL 4750 Summer Geology Field Camp	6		
SENIOR YEAR			
___ GEOL 4820 Groundwater and Contaminant Transport	3	___ EES 4010 Environmental Engineering	3
___ GEOL 4910 Research Synthesis I	3	___ GEOL 4050 Surficial Processes	4
___ Hydrogeology Concentration Reqt <sup>2</sup> : _____	3	___ GEOL 4090 Subsurface Methods	4
___ Hydrogeology Concentration Reqt <sup>2</sup> : _____	3	___ GEOL 4920 Research Synthesis	3
12		14	
126 Total Semester Hours			
<small>1 See General Education Requirements. Three of these credits must also satisfy the REACH Act Requirement.</small> <small>2 Total of 12 credit hours selected from department approved list. Courses cannot be used to satisfy any other requirement.</small> <small>3 STAT 2300 or MATH 3020.</small> <small>4 MATH 2060 can be substituted.</small>		Total Number of General Education Hours Completed: _____	

