

GEOSCIENCES, B.A.

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park

Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2026-27 academic year. To access previous years' suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/>) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition.

Geosciences, B.A. at University Park Campus

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
MATH 110, 140, or 140G (GQ) ^{††}	4 ENGL 15, 30H, or ESL 15 (GWS) ^{††}	3
CHEM 110 (GN) [†]	3 PHYS 250 (GN) [†]	4
CHEM 111 (GN) [†]	1 General Education Knowledge Domain	3
GEOSC 1 [*]	3 MATH 141, 141G, 111, STAT 200, or STAT 250 (GQ) ^{††}	4
EMSC 100S ^{††1}	3	
	14	14

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
GEOSC 201 [*]	4 GEOSC 310 or 320 [*]	3-4
BIOL 114 (GN) [†]	3 BIOL 220W, PHYS 251, or CHEM 112 and CHEM 113	4
BIOL 115 (GN) [†]	1 General Education Knowledge Domain	3
World Language level 1	4 World Language level 2	4
General Education Knowledge Domain	3 General Education Health and Wellness (GHW)	1.5
	15	15.5-16.5

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
GEOSC 202, 203, or 204	4 General Education Foundation selection (GWS) [†]	3
World Language level 3	4 Supporting Course	3
BIOL 220W, PHYS 251, or CHEM 112 and CHEM 113	4 Bachelor of Arts Course	3

General Education Knowledge Domain	3 Bachelor of Arts Course	3
	General Education Knowledge Domain	3
	15	15
Fourth Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Supporting Course	3 Advanced 300/400 level GEOSC course	3
Supporting Course	3 Field/lab experience	3
Advanced 300/400 level GEOSC course	3 Writing intensive course from within Earth and Mineral Sciences	3
General Education Knowledge Domain	3 World Cultures course	3
Bachelor of Arts Course	3 Supporting Course	3
General Education Health and Wellness (GHW)	1.5	
	16.5	15

Total Credits 120-121

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

† Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education

Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy Cultural Diversity Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ), Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) and Integrative Studies (Inter-domain) requirements. N or Q (Honors) is the suffix at the end of a course number used to help identify an Inter-domain course, but the inter-domain attribute is used to fill audit requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL 137H/CAS 137H in the fall semester and ENGL 138T/CAS 138T in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and satisfy a portion of that General Education requirement. If the student's program prescribes GWS these courses will replace both ENGL 15/ENGL 30H and CAS 100A/CAS 100B/CAS 100C. Each course is 3 credits.

Bachelor of Arts Requirements:

Bachelor of Arts students must take 9 credits in Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Fields (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Arts; World Languages [2nd language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the 1st]; Natural Sciences; Quantification). The B.A. Fields courses may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major. See your adviser and the Degree Requirements section (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/>)

undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/) of this Bulletin.

Bachelor of Arts students must take 3 credits in World Cultures.

See your adviser and the full list of courses approved as World Cultures courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/course-lists/ba-world-cultures/>).

¹ Students who begin their studies at non-UP locations and/or join the college after their first year should substitute CAS 100 (GWS), CAS 100A, CAS 100B, or CAS 100C; or ENGL 202C (GWS) or EM SC 100S (GWS). EM SC 100S Earth and Mineral Sciences First year Seminar (3) is a required course only for students who begin their studies at UP in the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences.

Advising Notes:

Supporting Courses should be selected in consultation with an adviser. Students may use up to 6 credits of ROTC.

Geosciences, B.A. at Commonwealth Campuses

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
MATH 110 or 140 (GQ) ^{††}	4 PHYS 250 (GN) [†]	4
CHEM 110 (GN) [†]	3 MATH 141, 111, STAT 200, or STAT 250 (GQ) ^{††}	4
CHEM 111 (GN) [†]	1 World Language Level 2	4
World Language Level 1	4 General Education Knowledge Domain	3
ENGL 15, 30H, or ESL 15 (GWS) [‡]	3	
	15	15

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BIOL 114 (GN) [†]	3 BIOL 220W, PHYS 251, or CHEM 112 and CHEM 113	4
BIOL 115 (GN) [†]	1 ENGL 202C (GWS) ^{‡ 1}	3
CAS 100, CAS 100A, CAS 100B, or CAS 100C (GWS) ^{‡ 1}	3 General Education Knowledge Domain	3
World Language level 3	4 Bachelor of Arts Course	3
General Education Knowledge Domain	3 General Education Health and Wellness (GHW)	1.5
General Education Health and Wellness (GHW)	1.5	
	15.5	14.5

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
GEOSC 1 or 20 [*]	3 GEOSC 201 [*]	4
BIOL 220W, PHYS 251, or CHEM 112 and CHEM 113	4 Supporting Course	3
General Education Knowledge Domain	3 Bachelor of Arts Course	3
World Cultures course	3 Bachelor of Arts Course	3
	General Education Knowledge Domain	3
	13	16

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
GEOSC 202, 203, or 204	4 GEOSC 310 or 320 [*]	3-4
Advanced 300/400 level GEOSC course	3 Advanced 300/400 level GEOSC course	3
Supporting Course	3 Field/lab experience	3
Supporting Course	3 Writing intensive course from within Earth and Mineral Sciences	3

General Education Knowledge Domain	3 Supporting Course	3
	16	15-16

Total Credits 120-121

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Bachelor of Arts Requirements:

Bachelor of Arts students must take 9 credits in Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Fields (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Arts; World Languages [2nd language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the 1st]; Natural Sciences; Quantification). The B.A. Fields courses may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major. See your adviser and the Degree Requirements section (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/>) of this Bulletin.

Bachelor of Arts students must take 3 credits in World Cultures. See your adviser and the full list of courses approved as World Cultures courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/course-lists/ba-world-cultures/>).

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