

# EARTH SCIENCE

## THE WIESS SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES

### **CHAIR**

Alan Levander

### **PROFESSORS**

John B. Anderson  
 Gerald R. Dickens  
 André W. Droxler  
 Richard G. Gordon  
 Adrian Lenardic  
 Andreas Luttgé  
 Julia Morgan  
 Dale S. Sawyer  
 Colin Zelt

### **ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS**

Cin-Ty Lee  
 Fenglin Niu

### **ASSISTANT PROFESSORS**

Rajdeep Dasgupta  
 Brandon Dugan  
 Helge Gonnermann  
 Caroline Masiello

### **ADJUNCT PROFESSORS**

K. K. Bissada  
 Stephen H. Danbom  
 Jeffrey J. Dravis  
 Paul M. Harris  
 Thomas A. Jones  
 Stephen J. Mackwell  
 W. C. Rusty Riese  
 Juan Antonio Simo  
 John C. Van Wagoner  
 Fred M. Weaver

### **ADJUNCT ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS**

Vitor Abreu  
 David L. Olgaard

### **ADJUNCT ASSISTANT PROFESSORS**

Alan D. Brandon  
 Cornelius Fischer  
 Patrick J. McGovern  
 Christian A. Noll  
 Stephanie S. Shipp  
 Julia S. Wellner

### **EARTH SCIENCE RESEARCH SCIENTISTS**

Rolf Arvidson  
 Glen Snyder

### **VISITING RESEARCH SCIENTISTS**

Tibisay Perez  
 Maik Pertermann

### **EARTH SCIENCE LECTURERS**

Vitor Abreu  
 Stephen H. Danbom  
 Alison T. Henning  
 W.C. Rusty Riese

### **EARTH SCIENCE POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATES**

Aimin Cao  
 William Hockaday  
 Tobias Hoeink  
 Priyank Jaiswal  
 Veronique Le Roux  
 Peter Luffi  
 Everett Salas  
 Bing Shen  
 Elizabeth Vanacore

### **EARTH SCIENCE JOINT APPOINTMENT (WITH CHEMISTRY)**

Andreas Luttgé

## **ESCI DEGREES OFFERED: BA, BS, MS, PHD**

All undergraduate majors in earth science take a four-course core sequence, typically in the sophomore and junior years, on earth processes, materials, observations, and history. Majors also take a course in geological field techniques and introductory courses in mathematics, chemistry, and in many cases, physics and biology.

The selection of upper-division courses and additional science courses depends on which major, BA or BS, and, for the BS major, which of five tracks are chosen by the student: geology, geochemistry, geophysics, environmental earth science, or a track designed by the student subject to the approval of the department undergraduate advisor. The program of study typically includes experience with analytical equipment, computer systems, and fieldwork.

The BS in earth science degree should be chosen by students planning a career or further study in earth science or a related field. The BA in earth science degree has fewer requirements and might be a good choice for students planning a career or further study to which earth science is incidental.

**DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR BS IN EARTH SCIENCE**

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (Undergraduate Students section, pages 2–5).

BS majors also must complete the “Additional Requirements” for one track (described below).

***The following courses are required for all tracks:***

MATH 101/102 *Single Variable Calculus I* and *II*  
 CHEM 121/122 or 151/152 *General Chemistry I*  
 and *II* with lab  
 PHYS 101/102 or 111/112 *Introductory Physics I*  
 and *II* with lab

ESCI 321 *Earth System Evolution and Cycles*  
 ESCI 322 *Earth Chemistry and Materials*  
 ESCI 323 *Earth Structure and Deformation*  
 with lab  
 ESCI 324 *Earth's Interior*  
 ESCI 334 *Geological and Geophysical*  
*Techniques*

**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GEOLOGY TRACK*****The following courses are required:***

MATH 211 *Ordinary Differential Equations*  
 and *Linear Algebra*  
 ESCI 390 *Geology Field Camp*  
 ESCI 442 *Exploration Geophysics I*

***Choose one of the following courses:***

COMP 110 *Computation in Natural Science*  
 CAAM 210 *Introduction to Engineering*  
*Computation*  
 COMP 210 *Principles of Computing and*  
*Programming*

***Choose one of the following courses:***

ESCI 412 *Advanced Petrology*  
 ESCI 430 *Principles of Trace-Element and*  
*Isotope Geochemistry*

***Choose one of the following courses:***

ESCI 427 *Sequence Stratigraphy*  
 ESCI 521 *Seminar in Applied*  
*Micropaleontology*

***Choose one of the following courses:***

ESCI 504 *Siliciclastic Depositional Systems*  
 ESCI 506 *Carbonate Depositional Systems*  
 ESCI 421 *Paleoceanography*

***Choose one of the following courses:***

ESCI 418 *Quantitative Hydrogeology*  
 ESCI 463 *Advanced Structural Geology*  
 ESCI 428 *Geologic Interpretation of Reflection*  
*Seismic Profiles*  
 ESCI 464 *Global Tectonics*

**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GEOCHEMISTRY TRACK*****The following courses are required:***

BIOS 201 *Introductory Biology I*  
 ESCI 390 *Geology Field Camp* or  
 ESCI 391 *Earth Science Field Experience*

***Choose nine hours from the following:***

ESCI 340 *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*  
 ESCI 412 *Advanced Petrology*  
 ESCI 421 *Paleoceanography*  
 ESCI 425 *Organic Geochemistry*  
 ESCI 458 *Thermodynamics/Kinetics for*  
*Geoscientists*  
 ESCI 203 *Biogeochemistry*

ESCI 430 *Principles of Trace-Element and*  
*Isotope Geochemistry*

***Choose eight hours from the following:***

All upper division ESCI courses  
 CEVE 401 *Introduction to Environmental*  
*Chemistry*  
 CEVE 403 *Principles of Environmental*  
*Engineering*  
 CEVE 434 *Chemical Transport and Fate in the*  
*Environment*  
 CEVE 532 *Physical-Chemical Processes in*  
*Environmental Engineering*  
 CEVE 534 *Transport Phenomena and*  
*Environmental Modeling*

CEVE 550 *Environmental Organic Chemistry*  
 BIOS 202 *Introductory Biology*  
 BIOS 211 *Introductory Lab Module in Biological Science*  
 CHEM 211/212 *Organic Chemistry*  
 CHEM 311/312 *Physical Chemistry*  
 CHEM 415 *Chemical Kinetics and Dynamics*  
 CHEM 495 *Transition Metal Chemistry*

MATH 211 *Ordinary Differential Equations and Linear Algebra*  
 MATH 212 *Multivariable Calculus*  
 COMP 110 *Computation Science and Engineering*  
 CAAM 210 *Introduction to Engineering Computation*  
 COMP 210 *Introduction to Principles of Scientific Computing*

## ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GEOPHYSICS TRACK

### **The following courses are required:**

MATH 211 *Ordinary Differential Equations and Linear Algebra*  
 MATH 212 *Multivariable Calculus*  
 PHYS 201 *Waves and Optics*  
 PHYS 231 *Elementary Physics Lab II*  
 ESCI 390 *Geology Field Camp* or  
 ESCI 391 *Earth Science Field Experience*

### **Choose one of the following courses:**

COMP 110 *Computation in Natural Science*  
 CAAM 210 *Introduction to Engineering Computation*  
 COMP 210 *Principles of Computing and Programming*

### **Choose six hours from the following:**

ESCI 418 *Quantitative Hydrogeology*  
 ESCI 440 *Geophysical Data Analysis: Digital Signal Processing*

ESCI 441 *Geophysical Data Analysis: Inverse Theory*  
 ESCI 442 *Exploration Geophysics I*  
 ESCI 444 *Exploration Geophysics II*  
 ESCI 450 *Remote Sensing*  
 ESCI 454 *Geographic Information Science*  
 ESCI 461 *Seismology I*  
 ESCI 462 *Tectonophysics*  
 ESCI 464 *Global Tectonics*  
 ESCI 532 *Advanced Global Tectonics*  
 ESCI 542 *Seismology II*

### **Choose six hours from the immediately preceding or following lists:**

Any three- or four-hour course in ESCI with a number between 411 and 475, except for research and special studies  
 Any 300- or 400-level MATH, CAAM, or PHYS class  
 CHEM 311 *Physical Chemistry*

## ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL EARTH SCIENCE TRACK

### **The following courses are required:**

MATH 211 *Ordinary Differential Equations and Linear Algebra*  
 BIOS 201 *Introductory Biology I*

### **Choose one of the following courses:**

COMP 110 *Computation in Natural Science*  
 CAAM 210 *Introduction to Engineering Computation*  
 COMP 210 *Principles of Computing and Programming*

### **Choose 11 hours from the following, including at least two courses in ESCI:**

ESCI 340 *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*

ESCI 418 *Quantitative Hydrogeology*  
 ESCI 425 *Organic Geochemistry*  
 ESCI 451 *Analysis of Environmental Data*  
 ESCI 353 *Environmental Geochemistry*  
 ESCI 442 *Exploration Geophysics*  
 ESCI 454 *Geographic Information Science*  
 ESCI 463 *Advanced Structural Geology I*  
 ESCI 504 *Clastics*  
 ESCI 506 *Carbonates*  
 ESCI 568 *Paleoclimates and Human Response*  
 CEVE 306 *Global Environmental Law and Sustainable Development*

CEVE 434 *Chemical Transport and Fate in the Environment*

CEVE 412 *Hydrogeology and Watershed Analysis*

CEVE 401 *Environmental Chemistry*

CHEM 211 *Organic Chemistry*

CHEM 311 *Physical Chemistry*

CHEM 360 *Inorganic Chemistry*

PHYS 201 *Waves and Optics*

PHYS 231 *Elementary Physics Lab II*

BIOS 202 *Introductory Biology II*

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SELF-DESIGNED TRACK

The department recognizes the interdisciplinary nature of modern earth science and the opportunity for students to specialize in nontraditional and emerging fields. Therefore, students can design their own specialty track, normally in close consultation with one faculty member and followed by approval from the department's undergraduate advisor. In addition to required earth science courses and related courses, these tracks will generally comprise 12 additional hours that target a coherent theme from an approved list of 300- or higher-level courses, from inside or outside the department. Interested students are expected to submit a statement of rationale by the beginning of their third year.

#### **Choose nine hours from the following:**

BIOS 201 *Introductory Biology I*

COMP 110 *Computation in Natural Science*

CAAM 210 *Introduction to Engineering Computation*

COMP 210 *Principles of Computing and Programming*

CHEM 311/312 *Physical Chemistry I and II*

MATH 211 *Ordinary Differential Equations and Linear Algebra*

MATH 212 *Multivariable Calculus*

PHYS 201 *Waves and Optics*

PHYS 203 *Atmosphere, Weather, and Climate*

ESCI 390 *Geology Field Camp* or

ESCI 391 *Earth Science Field Experience*

**Choose 12 hours of additional courses numbered 300 or higher targeting a coherent theme selected with approval of the department undergraduate advisor.**

### DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR BA IN EARTH SCIENCE

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (Undergraduate Students section, pages 2–5).

#### **The following courses are required:**

MATH 101/102 *Single Variable Calculus I and II*

CHEM 121/122 or 151/152 *General Chemistry I and II* with lab

ESCI 321 *Earth System Evolution and Cycles*

ESCI 322 *Earth Chemistry and Materials*

ESCI 323 *Earth Structure and Deformation* with lab

ESCI 324 *Earth's Interior*

ESCI 334 *Geological and Geophysical Techniques*

MATH 211 *Differential Equations*

PHYS 101/102 or 125/126 *Introductory Physics*

COMP 110 *Computation in Natural Science* or CAAM 210 *Introduction to Engineering Computation* or COMP 210 *Principles of Computing and Programming*

**Choose four upper division ESCI courses, approved by the department undergraduate advisor.**

**Choose six hours in science and engineering (including ESCI) courses at the 200 level or above approved by the department undergraduate advisor.**

#### **Choose six hours from the following:**

BIOL 201/202 *Introductory Biology I and II*

BIOL 211, 213 *Biology Lab Modules*

## UNDERGRADUATE INDEPENDENT RESEARCH

The department encourages, but does not require, earth science undergraduate majors to pursue independent supervised research in ESCI 481 *Research in Earth Science*. See also Honors Programs (Undergraduate Students section, pages 14–15).

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR MS AND PHD IN EARTH SCIENCE

All incoming students should have a strong background in physics, chemistry, and mathematics and should have, or should acquire, a broad grounding in fundamental earth science. The department encourages applications from well-qualified students with degrees in the other sciences and mathematics. For general university requirements, see Graduate Degrees (Graduate Student section, pages 3–4). The requirements for the MS and PhD in earth science are similar, but the PhD demands a significantly higher level of knowledge, research skills, and scholarly independence. Most students need at least two years beyond the bachelor's degree to complete the MS and at least two years beyond the MS degree for the PhD.

Candidates determine, with their major professor and thesis committee, a course of study following the *Guidelines for Advanced Degrees in the Department of Earth Science* distributed to all incoming students. For both degrees, candidates must:

- Complete 20 semester hours of course work at the 400 level and above (or other approved courses), not including research hours
- Pass a written preliminary exam
- Maintain a grade point average of 3.00 (B) or better
- Prepare a written thesis
- Produce a publishable thesis that represents an original contribution to science
- Defend the research and conclusions of the thesis in an oral examination

Students of exceptional ability with a bachelor's degree and department approval may work directly toward the PhD, in which case the course of study is equivalent to that required for both degrees; performance on the examinations and the thesis, however, should be at the level required for the PhD. Because the graduate programs require full-time study and close interaction with faculty and fellow students, the department discourages students from holding full (or nearly full) time jobs outside the university. Outside employment must be approved by the chair.

**See ESCI in the Courses of Instruction section.**