**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

Geology is the study of the Earth. Volcanoes, earthquakes, floods, landslides, erosion and plate tectonics are some of the things that geologists investigate and try to understand. Geology is a field-oriented science that involves mapping and analyzing rocks, deciphering the Earth’s history from the rock record, locating natural resources, identifying natural and man-made hazards, and understanding Earth’s natural processes.

The department of Earth and atmospheric sciences at Saint Louis University offers two undergraduate degrees in geology: a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science. Both degrees study earth processes, rocks, minerals and structures. The B.S. degree places a stronger emphasis on chemistry, physics, calculus and fieldwork. It is more appropriate for students who intend to go on to graduate school or become a professional geologist.

Since our undergraduate geology program is relatively small compared to larger public universities, our students have more opportunities to interact with faculty, get personalized attention and take advantage of opportunities inside and outside of the University. One highlight of our students’ education is our annual department field trip in which faculty, graduate and undergraduate students spend one week exploring a region of our country. Traveling through national parks, seeing natural systems not commonly encountered by students and learning firsthand about the Earth and its environment is rewarding to all who participate. The department heavily subsidizes these trips so that most students can participate.

**DEGREE(S)**

- Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in geology
- Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in geology
- Minor in geology

**ABOUT THE FACULTY**

Faculty teaching in the geology program are devoted to the training of students in the classroom, laboratory and field. Faculty have been involved in research located in field areas in North America and as far away as Antarctica, Asia and South America. They bring these experiences back into the class to enrich the learning experiences of the students.

**CURRICULUM**

The geology curriculum is built around areas of knowledge fundamental to understanding the Earth.

Survey courses in Earth systems are the first two courses that students take. Intermediate and upper-division courses are focused on the building blocks of Earth and the processes that build and modify the Earth’s features. These courses cover the study of minerals and rocks, weathering and erosion, sediment transport and deposition, development of mountain ranges and deformation of the Earth, and the movement of tectonic plates.

Educational, social and leadership skills are also developed in our program through course-related laboratory exercises, numerous day and weekend field trips, and an annual weeklong field trip. Students enrolled in the Bachelor of Science program also enroll in a six-week summer camp during which they learn to work in the field.

**GEOLOGY**

+ College of Arts and Sciences

+ Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in geology
+ Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in geology
+ Minor in geology

**ANTHONY ENCARNACION, Ph.D.**

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Graduate Programs

+ Master of Arts (M.S.) in geology

For a full listing of graduate programs, visit graduate.slu.edu.

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ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Freshman: All applications are thoroughly and carefully reviewed. Solid academic performance in college preparatory course work is a primary criterion in reviewing a freshman applicant’s file. College admission test scores (ACT or SAT) are used as an additional indicator of the student’s ability to meet the University’s academic requirements and to qualify the student for certain University scholarship programs. To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, the applicant must be approaching graduation from an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the General Education Development (GED) test.

Transfer: Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED. An official high school transcript and official test scores are required only of those students who have attempted fewer than 24 transferable semester hours (or 30 quarter hours) of college credit. Those having completed 24 hours or more of college credit need only submit a transcript from previously attended college(s). In reviewing a transfer applicant’s file, the office of admission holistically examines the student’s academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student’s ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University.

WHY CHOOSE THIS PROGRAM?

Students in the department may have the opportunity for part-time work assisting faculty members with their research. Such jobs expose students to various aspects of science as well as provide them with some income. Other part-time jobs may also be available elsewhere in the University. The city of St. Louis provides opportunities for science-related volunteer work in places such as the Saint Louis Science Center and the Saint Louis Zoo.

A degree in the geosciences prepares students for a variety of interesting careers. Many geoscientists work in industry or for government agencies concerned with oil and natural gas exploration and production, mining, water resources, civil engineering, waste and pollution management, environmental impact assessment, conservation and land management, policy analysis and implementation education. Students in our program also acquire a solid background in critical thinking, effective communication and computer use.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:
+ Scholarships: awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
+ Financial Aid: provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, applicants should apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For information on other scholarships and financial aid, visit the student financial services office online at finaid.slu.edu.

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