Earth and Space Sciences (ESS)

Interdisciplinary Major in Earth and Space Sciences
Department of Geosciences, College of Arts and Sciences

Requirements for the Major in Earth and Space Sciences (ESS)

The major in Earth and Space Sciences leads to the Bachelor of Arts degree. All courses offered for the major must be passed with a letter grade of C or higher.

Completion of the major requires approximately 61-72 credits.

Requirements for the Earth and Space Sciences Track

A. Introductory earth and space sciences courses
   - GEO 103 The Earth Through Time and GEO 113 Historical Geology Laboratory
   - GEO 122 Physical Geology or GEO 102 The Earth and GEO 112 Physical Geology Laboratory
   - AST 101 Introduction to Astronomy
   - AST 112 Astronomy Laboratory
   - ATM 205 Introduction to Atmospheric Sciences

B. Upper-division earth and space sciences courses
   - At least four upper-division GEO, AST, ATM courses; at least one must include a laboratory

C. Introductory related science courses
   1. MAT 131, 132 Calculus I, II (See Notes 1 and 2 below)
   2. PHY 121 Physics for Life Sciences or PHY 125 Classical Physics A and lab or PHY 131/133 Classical Physics I Honors 
   3. Any two of the following groups (See Notes 3, 4, and 5 below):
      a. PHY 122/124 Physics for Life Sciences
      or PHY 132/134 Classical Physics II and lab
      or PHY 142 Classical Physics II: Honors
      or PHY 126, 127 Classical Physics B and C
   b. CHE 131, 132 General Chemistry I, II or CHE 141, 142 Honors Chemistry I, II (See Note 3)
   c. BIO 150 The Living World and BIO 201 Fundamentals of Biology: Organisms to Ecosystems

D. Specific science concentration
   - At least 12 credits in courses acceptable for one of the following concentrations: astronomy, atmospheric sciences, biology, chemistry, geology, environmental geoscience, marine sciences, mathematics, or physics. Students must obtain departmental approval of courses chosen to satisfy the specific science concentration.

E. Upper-division writing requirement
   - All students in the Earth and Space Sciences track must submit two papers (term papers, laboratory reports, or independent research papers) to the director of undergraduate studies for departmental evaluation by the end of the junior year. If this evaluation is satisfactory, the student will have fulfilled the upper-division writing requirement. If it is not, the student must fulfill the requirement before graduation.

Notes:
1. The following alternate beginning calculus sequences may be substituted for MAT 131, 132 in major requirements or prerequisites: MAT 125, 126, 127 or 141, 142, or MAT 171, or AMS 151, 161. Equivalency for MAT courses achieved by earning the appropriate score on a University mathematics placement examination will be accepted as fulfillment of the requirement without the necessity of substituting other credits.
2. For biology, chemistry, geology, and marine sciences concentrations, MAT 132 or 127 may be waived under compelling circumstances and with the written permission of the ESS advisor.
3. For the concentration in chemistry, the sequence CHE 123, 124, 132 or CHE 129, 132 may be used to satisfy requirement C3.
4. For astronomy, atmospheric sciences, mathematics, and physics concentrations, PHY 121/123 and 122/124 are not acceptable under Requirements C2 and C3.
5. For the concentration in physics, MAT 205, 206, or AMS 261 and MAT 305, 303, or AMS 361 are required, and two semesters under Requirement C3 may be waived.
**Sample Course Sequence for the Major in Earth and Space Sciences**

**Freshman Fall**
- First Year Seminar 101 1
- D.E.C. A 3
- CHE 131 4
- GEO 102 3
- GEO 112 1
- D.E.C. (or MAT 123 if needed) 3
- **Total 15**

**Spring**
- First Year Seminar 102 1
- D.E.C. A 3
- CHE 132 4
- MAT 125 or 131 3-4
- GEO 103 3
- GEO 113 1
- **Total 15-16**

**Sophomore Fall**
- MAT 126 or 132 3-4
- PHY 121/123 or 131/133 4
- D.E.C. 3
- D.E.C. 3
- **Total 13-14**

**Spring**
- PHY 122/124 or 132/134 4
- GEO/AST/ATM Elective 3
- D.E.C. or MAT 127 3
- D.E.C. 3
- Upper-Division D.E.C. 3
- **Total 16**

**Junior Fall**
- ATM 205 3
- Upper-Division Concentration elective 3
- AST 101 3
- AST 112 1
- BIO 150 3
- Upper-Division D.E.C. 3
- **Total 16**

**Spring**
- Upper-Division Concentration elective 3
- GEO/AST/ATM Elective 4
- BIO 201 3
- D.E.C. 3
- Upper-Division elective 3
- **Total 16**

**Senior Fall**
- Upper-Division Concentration elective 3
- Upper-Division GEO, AST, or ATM elective 3
- D.E.C. 3
- Upper-Division D.E.C. 3
- Upper-Division elective or D.E.C. 3
- **Total 15**

**Spring**
- Upper-Division Concentration elective 3
- GEO/AST/ATM Elective 3
- Upper-Division D.E.C. 3
- Upper-Division D.E.C. 3
- Upper-Division elective 3
- **Total 15**

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**Requirements for the Earth Science Education Track**

**A. Introductory science courses**
- GEO 102 The Earth and GEO 112 Physical Geology
- GEO 103 The Earth Through Time and GEO 113 Historical Geology Laboratory
- AST 101 Introduction to Astronomy and AST 112 Astronomy Laboratory
- ATM 205 Introduction to Atmospheric Sciences
- BIO 150 The Living World
- BIO 201 Fundamentals of Biology: Organisms to Ecosystems
- CHE 131, 132 General Chemistry I and II (see note below)
- CHE 133, 134 General Chemistry Laboratory I and II
- AMS 102 Elements of Statistics
- PHY 119 Physics for Environmental Studies or PHY 125 Classical Physics A
- ATM 102 Weather and Climate

**B. Elective Courses**
At least 24 credits from the approved course list, chosen in consultation with the program director. At least two of the courses must include a laboratory.

**C. Specific Science Concentration**
At least 12 credits of the 24 elective credits must be chosen from one of the earth and space science disciplines: astronomy, atmospheric sciences or geosciences.

**D. Upper-division writing requirement**
All students in the earth science education track must submit two papers (term papers, laboratory reports, or independent research reports) that involve collecting data or observations, processing and interpreting this information, and preparing a professional-quality report. These reports must be submitted to the director of undergraduate studies for evaluation by the end of the junior year. If this evaluation is satisfactory, the student will have fulfilled the upper-division writing requirement. If it is not, the student must fulfill the requirement before graduation.

Note: The sequence CHE 123, 124 or CHE 129, 132 may be substituted for CHE 131, 132, with permission of the undergraduate program director.

**Earth Science Secondary Teacher Education Program**
See the Education and Teacher Certification entry in the alphabetical listings of Approved Majors, Minors, and Programs.