REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements section of the Guide.

General Education
• Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
• Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
• Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits
• Communication Part A & Part B *
• Ethnic Studies *
• Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum.

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics
• Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework.

Foreign Language
• Complete the fourth unit of a foreign language; OR
• Complete the third unit of a foreign language and the second unit of an additional foreign language.

L&S Breadth
• 12 credits of Humanities, which must include 6 credits of literature; and
• 12 credits of Social Science; and
• 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include one 3+ credit Biological Science course and one 3+ credit Physical Science course.

Liberal Arts and Science Coursework
Complete at least 108 credits.

Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work
Complete at least 60 credits at the intermediate or advanced level.

Major
Declare and complete at least one major.

Total Credits
Complete at least 120 credits.

UW-Madison Experience
• 30 credits in residence, overall; and
• 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit.

Quality of Work
• 2.000 in all coursework at UW–Madison
• 2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW–Madison

NON–L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non–L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

Prospective majors are strongly encouraged to seek assistance from a faculty advisor in order to choose courses appropriate to their interests and career plans. Advisors can also assist students in choosing a track that is appropriate for their interests and career goals.

BACKGROUND REQUIREMENTS

Code Title Credits
Mathematics (complete one sequence):
MATH 221 & MATH 222 Calculus and Analytic Geometry 1 and Calculus and Analytic Geometry 2 (recommended) 9-14
MATH 211 & MATH 222 Calculus and Calculus and Analytic Geometry 2 5-10
MATH 171 & MATH 217 & MATH 222 Calculus with Algebra and Trigonometry I and Calculus with Algebra and Trigonometry II and Calculus and Analytic Geometry 2 10-11

Chemistry (complete one sequence) Advanced General Chemistry 5-10
CHEM 109 Advanced General Chemistry
CHEM 103 & CHEM 104 General Chemistry I and General Chemistry II
CHEM 115 & CHEM 116 Chemical Principles I and Chemical Principles II

Physics (complete one sequence):
PHYSICS 207 & PHYSICS 208  General Physics and General Physics (recommended)

PHYSICS 201 & PHYSICS 202  General Physics and General Physics

PHYSICS 247 & PHYSICS 248  A Modern Introduction to Physics and A Modern Introduction to Physics

Geophysics and Engineering Geology Track option (complete all):

E M A 201 & E M A 202  Statics and Dynamics

PHYSICS 208  General Physics

or PHYSICS 202 General Physics

or PHYSICS 248 A Modern Introduction to Physics

Total Credits 24-35

GEOLOGY & GEOPHYSICS CORE COURSE WORK

Complete all of the following:

GEOSCI 100  Introductory Geology: How the Earth Works

or GEOSCI/ENVIR ST 106  Environmental Geology

GEOSCI 202  Introduction to Geologic Structures

GEOSCI 204  Geologic Evolution of the Earth

GEOSCI/G L E 360  Principles of Mineralogy

GEOSCI/G L E 370  Elementary Petrology

Total Credits 17

GEOLOGY & GEOPHYSICS TRACKS

Complete one of the following:

Geology Track

Code  Title  Credits
GEOSCI/G L E 350  Introduction to Geophysics: The Dynamic Earth 3

GEOSCI 375  Principles of Geochemistry 3

GEOSCI/G L E 430  Sedimentology and Stratigraphy 3

GEOSCI/G L E 455  Structural Geology 4

4 credits of GEOSCI 300-699 1 4

Total Credits 17

1  Except GEOSCI 331.

Geophysics and Engineering Geology Track

Code  Title  Credits
GEOSCI/G L E 431  Sedimentary & Stratigraphy Lab 1

GEOSCI/G L E 455  Structural Geology 4

GEOSCI/G L E 474  Rock Mechanics 3

or GEOSCI/G L E 350  Introduction to Geophysics: The Dynamic Earth

GEOSCI/G L E 594  Introduction to Applied Geophysics 3

GEOSCI/G L E 595  Field Methods in Applied and Engineering Geophysics 1

GEOSCI/G L E 627  Hydrogeology 3-4

or GEOSCI/G L E 350  Introduction to Geophysics: The Dynamic Earth

E M A 303  Mechanics of Materials 3

or M E 306  Mechanics of Materials

or PHYSICS 311  Mechanics

or PHYSICS 322  Electromagnetic Fields

MATH 234  Calculus—Functions of Several Variables 3-4

or MATH 319  Techniques in Ordinary Differential Equations

or MATH 320  Linear Algebra and Differential Equations

or MATH 340  Elementary Matrix and Linear Algebra

Total Credits 21-23

Environmental Geoscience Track

Code  Title  Credits
GEOSCI/GEOG 320  Geomorphology 3-4

or GEOSCI/GEOG 420  Glacial and Pleistocene Geology

or GEOSCI 430  Sedimentology and Stratigraphy

or GEOSCI/G L E 627  Hydrogeology

GEOSCI 375  Principles of Geochemistry 3

or GEOSCI 610  Geochronology, Timescales, and Rates of Geologic Processes

or GEOSCI/G L E 629  Contaminant Hydrogeology

GEOSCI 304  Geobiology 3

or GEOSCI/ZOOLOGY 541  Paleobiology

or GEOSCI/ZOOLOGY 542  Invertebrate Paleontology

GEOSCI/G L E 455  Structural Geology

or GEOSCI/G L E 515  Principles of Economic Geology

or GEOSCI/G L E 594  Introduction to Applied Geophysics

Electives 3-5

Total Credits 17-19

1  Except GEOSCI 331.

General Geology Track

Code  Title  Credits
Any GEOSCI 300-699 1 17

Total Credits 17

1  Except GEOSCI 331.

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

• 2.000 GPA in all GEOSCI and major courses
• 2.000 on 15 upper-level major credits, taken in residence 1
• 15 credits in GEOSCI, taken on campus
HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students may declare Honors in the Geology and Geophysics Major in consultation with the departmental undergraduate advisor.

HONORS IN THE MAJOR IN GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS: REQUIREMENTS

To earn Honors in the Geology and Geophysics Major, students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

• Earn a 3.300 University GPA
• Earn a 3.400 GPA in all GEOSCI and major courses
• Complete GEOSCI 681 and GEOSCI 682, for a total of 6 credits, with a grade of B or better.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree
To receive a bachelor’s degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

Residency
Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. "In residence" means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

Quality of Work
Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.