

SCHOOL OF EARTH SCIENCES

Dean: Pamela A. Matson

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Diversity: Jerry M. Harris

The School of Earth Sciences includes the departments of Geological and Environmental Sciences, Geophysics, Energy Resources Engineering (formerly Petroleum Engineering), and Environmental Earth System Science; and three interdisciplinary programs: the Earth Systems undergraduate program, the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Environment and Resources (IPER), and the graduate-level Earth, Energy, and Environmental Sciences Graduate Program (EEES). The Earth Systems Program and IPER offer study of biophysical and social dimensions of environment and resources, while EEES is intended for students working across departments and disciplines within the School of Earth Sciences.

The aims of the school are (1) to prepare students for careers in the fields of biogeochemistry, climate science, energy resource engineering, environmental science, geology, geochemistry, geomechanics, geophysics, geostatistics, hydrogeology, land science, oceanography, petroleum engineering, and petroleum geology; (2) to conduct research in the Earth sciences; and (3) to provide opportunities for Stanford undergraduates to learn about the planet's history, to understand the energy and resource base that supports humanity, to appreciate the geological and geophysical hazards that affect human societies, and to understand the challenges and solutions related to the environment and sustainability.

To accomplish these objectives, the school offers a variety of programs adaptable to the needs of the individual student: four-year undergraduate programs leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.S.); five-year programs leading to the coterminal Bachelor of Science and Master of Science (M.S.); and graduate programs offering the degrees of Master of Science, Engineer, and Doctor of Philosophy as described below. Details of individual degree programs are found in the section for each department or program.

DEGREE PROGRAMS IN EARTH SCIENCES

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS IN EARTH SCIENCES

Any undergraduate admitted to the University may declare a major in one of the Earth Science departments or programs by contacting the appropriate department or program office.

Requirements for the B.S. degree are listed in each department or program section. Departmental academic advisers work with students to define a career or academic goal and assure that the student's curricular choices are appropriate to the pursuit of that goal. Advisers can help devise a sensible and enjoyable course of study that meets degree requirements and provides the student with opportunities to experience advanced courses, seminars, and research projects. To maximize such opportunities, students are encouraged to complete basic science and mathematics courses in high school or during their freshman year.

Each department offers an honors program involving research during the senior year. Each department also offers an academic minor for those undergraduates majoring in compatible fields. The Earth Systems Program also offers an honors program in Environmental Science, Technology, and Policy through the Woods Institute for the Environment.

COTERMINAL BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S DEGREES IN EARTH SCIENCES

The Stanford coterminal degree plan enables an undergraduate to embark on an integrated program of study leading to the master's degree before requirements for the bachelor's degree have been completed. This may result in more expeditious progress towards the advanced degree than would otherwise be possible, making the program especially important to Earth scientists because the master's degree provides an excellent basis for entry into the profession. The coterminal plan permits students to apply for admission to a master's program after earning 120 units, but no later than the quarter prior to the expected completion of the undergraduate degree.

Under the plan, the student may meet the degree requirements in the more advantageous of the following two ways: by first completing the 180 units required for the B.S. degree and then completing the three quarters required for the M.S. degree; or by completing a total of 15 quarters during which the requirements for the two degrees are completed concurrently. In either case, the student has the option of receiving the B.S. degree upon meeting all the B.S. requirements or of receiving both degrees at the end of the coterminal program. Students earn degrees in the same department or program, in two different departments, or even in different schools; for example, a B.S. in Physics and an M.S. in Geological and Environmental Sciences. Students are encouraged to discuss the coterminal program with their advisers during their junior year. Additional information is available in the individual department offices.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN EARTH SCIENCES

Admission to the Graduate Program—A student who wishes to enroll for graduate work in the school must be qualified for graduate standing in the University and also must be accepted by one of the school's four departments or one of the two interdisciplinary Ph.D. programs. One requirement for admission is submission of scores on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Exam. Admission to one department of the school does not guarantee admission to other departments.

Faculty Adviser—Upon entering a graduate program, the student should report to the head of the department or program who arranges with a member of the faculty to act as the student's adviser. Alternatively, in several of the departments, advisers are established through student-faculty discussions prior to admission. The student, in consultation with the adviser(s), then arranges a course of study for the first quarter and ultimately develops a complete plan of study for the degree sought.

Financial Aid—Detailed information on scholarships, fellowships, and research grants is available from the school's individual departments and programs. Applications should be filed by the various dates listed in the application packet for awards that become effective in Autumn Quarter of the following academic year.