

# Geology

## School of Physical Sciences and Technologies

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### Curriculum

The Department of Geological Sciences offers diverse courses for both majors and nonmajors, supporting an interdisciplinary approach to the study of our planet's physical composition and history. The curriculum integrates studies in the biological sciences, environmental studies, marine science, and the physical sciences, including physics and chemistry. Introductory courses range from survey courses in earth science, to geology courses exploring our national parks and monuments, to courses in environmental geology. More specialized courses examine the physical and biological coevolution of the planet Earth, the fundamental physical and chemical properties of minerals, and basic crystallography. The curriculum also includes a wide range of popular field courses within the physiographic provinces in California and other areas in western North America.

### Major

The course requirements for a major in geology are intended to provide a solid foundation for a variety of student needs. Students pursuing the major may meet transfer requirements for a four-year college or university; or they may complete an Associate in Arts degree in Geology.

For those who intend to pursue upper-division or graduate study, introductory courses in the other sciences are recommended and are necessary in addition to the core courses required for the major. Students should consult the transfer requirements of prospective institutions. Additional academic counseling is readily available from the program faculty and/or a college counselor.

### Associate in Arts Degree in Geology

Students must complete a minimum of 60 units of credit, including the courses in the major and general education requirements (page 57), with an overall GPA of 2.0 or better. A minimum of 12 units must be completed at Irvine Valley College. See pages 54-55 for further information, including other options for fulfilling the major requirement.

### Transfer Preparation

Courses that fulfill major requirements for an associate degree at Irvine Valley College may not be the same as those required for completing the major at a transfer institution offering a baccalaureate degree. Students who plan to transfer to a four-year college or university should (1) refer to the transfer section of this catalog, (2) consult the catalog of their prospective transfer institution (see the IVC Transfer Center for assistance), and (3) schedule an appointment with an IVC counselor to develop a plan of study before beginning their program. It may be helpful to meet with the department faculty at IVC.

## Associate in Arts Degree Geology Major

		<b>Units</b>
<b>CHEM 1A</b>	General Chemistry	5
<b>CHEM 1B</b>	General Chemistry	5
<b>GEOL 1</b>	Physical Geology	4
<b>OR</b>		
<b>ERTH 20</b>	Introduction to Earth Science	4
<b>OR</b>		
<b>MS 20</b>	Introduction to Oceanography	4
<b>GEOL 2</b>	Historical Geology	4
<b>MATH 3A</b>	Analytic Geometry and Calculus I	5
<b>MATH 3B</b>	Analytic Geometry and Calculus II	5
<b>Choose two courses from the following:</b>		
<b>PHYS 2A</b>	Introduction to Physics	4
<b>PHYS 2B</b>	Introduction to Physics	4
<b>OR</b>		
<b>PHYS 4A</b>	General Physics	4
<b>PHYS 4B</b>	General Physics	4
<b>Choose one course from the following:</b>		
<b>GEOL 170</b>	Geology Field Studies: National Parks and Monuments	1
<b>OR</b>		
<b>GEOL 181</b>	Geology Field Studies: Coastal and Offshore Geology	1
<b>OR</b>		
<b>GEOL 186</b>	Geology Field Studies: Geology of California	1
<b>TOTAL UNITS: 37</b>		

**Recommended electives:** GEOL 3, 23, 110; MGT 103 strongly recommended; a course in mechanical drafting (if not taken in high school); ENGR 23.

### Courses

#### Earth Science

**ERTH 20: Introduction to Earth Science** **4 Units**  
*3 hours lecture, 3 hours lab*  
 This course introduces and unifies the central theories of geology, oceanography, meteorology, and astronomy. Students study the universe and solar system, the planet Earth and its constituents, rocks and minerals, drifting crustal plates, and processes such as mountain building and earthquakes. Students also study oceans and shorelines, the atmosphere, and climate. The effect of these disparate realms on life, past and present, is considered along with the effects of pollution of the natural environment. Field trips may be required. UC credit provisions (see UC course list). NR

# Geology

## **GEOL 1: Physical Geology**

**4 Units**

*3 hours lecture, 3 hours lab*

This course introduces the principles of geology and the methods of studying the Earth. Consideration is given to the materials of the Earth's crust, earthquakes, plate tectonics, the processes of mountain building and volcanism, sculpturing of the Earth's surface, evaluation of natural resources, the implications of geology to society, and aspects of the environment in which our lives are spent. Laboratory exercises include the identification of common rocks and minerals; reading and using topographic maps, aerial photographs, and geologic maps; and constructing topographic profiles and cross-sections to interpret the Earth's surface. Field trips may be required. (CAN GEOL 2) NR

## **GEOL 2: Historical Geology**

**4 Units**

*3 hours lecture, 3 hours lab*

*Prerequisite: Erth. 20 or Geol. 1.*

This course is a study of the physical and biological aspects of the evolution of the earth; the history and origin of the earth, continents, oceans and atmosphere; the origin and evolution of life; and the methods and concepts utilized in deciphering the geologic record. Field trips may be required. (CAN GEOL 4) NR

## **GEOL 3: Geology of California**

**3 Units**

*3 hours lecture*

This course is a study of the geologic development of California, including an exploration of plate tectonic and landform processes responsible for shaping the landscape. This course examines theories and processes related to earthquakes, faulting, volcanic activity and geologic time, as well as energy resources significant to California. Field trips may be required. NR

## **GEOL 22: Earth History**

**4 Units**

*3 hours lecture, 3 hours lab*

This general education lecture and laboratory science course is a study of the evolution of life on Earth, including the environments where life forms are found in the fossil record. Study includes the origin of continents, oceans and atmosphere; the origin and evolution of life; and the methods and concepts used to decipher Earth history. Field trips may be required to fulfill the objectives of this course. Recommended for non-geology majors. UC credit provisions (see UC course list). NR

## **GEOL 23: Natural Disasters**

**4 Units**

*3 hours lecture, 3 hours lab*

This course discusses the interaction of man and the geologic environment with particular reference to natural disasters that include earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, wildfires, and climate change. Students learn the principles of sound planning for human use of the planet Earth. Field trips may be required. NR

## **GEOL 110: Geology of National Parks**

**3 Units**

*3 hours lecture*

This is a survey course of the national parks of the United States with an emphasis on how the geology of each park reflects the geologic growth and development of the North American continent. This course will use plate tectonics and other theories to explain geologic phenomena seen in the national parks and will describe the geologic growth and development of North America using the national parks and monuments as examples. NR

## Geology (Field Studies)

### **GEOL 170: Geology of Field Studies: National Parks and Monuments**

**1, 1.5, 3 or 4 Units**

*.5 hours lecture, 1.5 hours lab; or 1 hour lecture, 2 hours lab; or*

*1.5 hours lecture, 4.5 hours lab; or 2 hours lecture, 6 hours lab*

This is a lecture and laboratory field course offered to study the origin, evolution, geology, and natural history of national parks and monuments of the western United States. Thematic emphasis, course content, and national parks to be visited will vary. Students in geology, earth science, and geography are encouraged to enroll. R-E-3

### **GEOL 181: Field Studies: Coastal and Offshore Geology**

**1 or 1.5 Units**

*.5 hours lecture, 1.5 hours lab; or 1 hour lecture, 2 hours lab*

This is a lecture and laboratory field course offered to study the origin, evolution, and geology of the coastal and offshore islands of the western United States and Baja California. Thematic emphasis and course content will vary. Students in geology, earth science, marine science and geography are encouraged to enroll. R-E-3

### **GEOL 186: Field Studies: Geology of California**

**1 Unit**

*.5 hours lecture, 1.5 hours lab*

This lecture and laboratory field course studies the origin, tectonic development, and present geology of California. Thematic emphasis and course content will vary each time the course is offered. Students in geology, earth science, marine science and geography courses are encouraged to enroll. R-E-3

## Marine Science

### **MS 20: Introduction to Oceanography**

**4 Units**

*3 hours lecture, 3 hours lab*

This course is an introduction to oceanography including a study of the physical and chemical properties of the sea, with a brief study of the geological and biological operations of the oceanographer. The current thinking of the oceans as economic and natural resources will be stressed, including the current techniques for measurement of the physical and chemical properties of the salt water environment. The laboratory will focus on the basic instruments used by oceanographers. Field trips may be required. NR