

FACULTY

Chairperson: Associate Professor Michael Krol

Graduate Program Coordinator: Professor Jeffrey Williams

Professors: Richard Enright, Peter Saccocia

Associate Professor: Robert Cicerone

Assistant Professor: Malinda Kent-Corson

Department Telephone Number: 508.531.1390

Location: Conant Science Building, Room 308A

Web site: www.bridgew.edu/earthsciences

DEGREE PROGRAMS

- BA in Earth Sciences
- BS in Earth Sciences
Concentrations: Environmental Geosciences, Geology
- BS in Chemistry/Geology (offered jointly with the Department of Chemical Sciences)
- MAT - Physical Sciences

UNDERGRADUATE MINORS

- Earth Sciences
 - Geophysics*
- * Interdisciplinary Minor

The Department of Earth Sciences offers several undergraduate programs in the earth and environmental sciences. Majors in the BS earth sciences program may elect a concentration in environmental geosciences or geology. The BA or BS earth science programs may also be taken as a double major with education. In addition, a program in chemistry-geology and a preprofessional program in oceanography are available.

The earth sciences faculty have a wide range of expertise within the geosciences and are actively engaged in research. The department includes faculty with extensive background and experience in the realm of fieldwork, laboratory investigations, and theoretical work, including computer modeling. This diversity supports a modern curriculum and provides numerous opportunities for students to extend their education beyond the confines of the traditional classroom.

Departmental faculty collaborate with scientists from other academic institutions to increase the number and variety of research opportunities for students. One member of the faculty is a guest investigator at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. This appointment generates research opportunities for students in marine geochemistry, geology, oceanography, and includes sea-going expeditions. Another faculty member collaborates with the Earth Resources Laboratory in the Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The latter collaboration creates student research opportunities in geophysics, which includes projects focused on earthquake generation. The research program of a third faculty member enables additional undergraduate research opportunities in the fields of petrology, geochemistry, geochronology and tectonics

with a focus on the geology of both the central and northern Appalachian and Rocky Mountains. The department also supports research within the realm of sedimentology and paleontology. This includes course-based research projects involving both field investigations and laboratory analysis of sediment transport and deposition, particularly within the coastal environment.

The department has a long history of active engagement within the cutting-edge field of remote sensing and supports these activities with both traditional courses and numerous applied research opportunities. In this regard, the department has been selected as the only one in the state college system in Massachusetts to participate in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) sponsored Joint Venture (JOVE) program. This distinction led to collaborations with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory on remote sensing projects in Mexico, Alabama and Southeastern Massachusetts and the Goddard Space Flight Center on bolide impacts. Similar research projects, performed by both faculty and undergraduate students, are ongoing today.

The department is committed to providing undergraduate students the opportunity to perform research with a faculty mentor. Each year, earth sciences students are involved in research and present their work at professional conferences organized by both regional and national geologic organizations. These opportunities help to propel our students into rewarding careers and excellent graduate programs.

Modern equipment supports the department's curriculum, including laboratory courses and undergraduate research projects. This equipment includes: 1) an X-ray Diffractometer with powder cameras; 2) thin sectioning equipment; 3) petrographic polarizing and stereoscopic microscopes; 4) a research grade Olympus polarizing microscope complete with a digital camera and image analysis software; 5) a proton precession magnetometer; 6) a seismic refraction unit; 7) an AS-I earthquake seismometer; 8) a Frantz Isodynamic Separator; 9) a 14-foot coastal research vessel; 10) a portable gamma-ray spectrometer; 11) a portable visible-near infrared spectroradiometer 12) a Sunsparc 20 UNIX work station; 13) a SunBlade 150 UNIX workstation; 14) GPS surveying equipment; and 15) groundwater and stream water sampling/monitoring equipment.

Finally, our close relations with the Department of Chemical Sciences have facilitated access to more specialized instrumentation used to investigate geochemical problems. This includes an atomic absorption spectrometer, an ultraviolet-visible spectrophotometer and a gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer.

In addition to course-related laboratory spaces, the department has several smaller specialized laboratories to support research activities. These include a well-equipped remote sensing laboratory, a petrology and geochemistry laboratory, a fine particle sedimentology laboratory, and extensive facilities for the preparation of rock samples for numerous analyses.

Earth sciences faculty are using Bridgewater State College's sophisticated computer facilities for classroom instruction, including demonstrating and displaying Web-based and self-authored material and models. In a growing number of courses, students may submit assignments online, and in

some courses, a majority of class time is spent in “virtual classrooms.” To learn more, visit the department Web site at www.bridgew.edu/depts/earthsciences.

The department boasts an active Earth Sciences Club that sponsors both local (Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University), regional (New Hampshire’s White Mountains), national (Hawaii), and international (Canada, Iceland, Mexico) field trips. Students may also qualify for Sigma Gamma Epsilon, the national earth science honor society.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

EARTH SCIENCES MAJOR

The major in earth sciences is a solid, broad-based program that provides the student with an understanding and appreciation of the physical aspects of the earth and earth processes. Career opportunities for graduates exist in federal, state and local government service, industry and environmental studies both with regulatory agencies and consulting firms. Teaching in the elementary, middle and secondary schools is another option. Many of our earth science majors have been awarded full fellowships at leading graduate schools. In addition, the faculty have an extensive program of undergraduate research, and many students have presented the results of their undergraduate research at various national meetings. Some of this research has been funded, and students are encouraged to contact the faculty if interested. Internships are also available for those students desiring to prepare themselves for employment upon graduation. Interested students are encouraged to contact the earth science/geology faculty – Drs. Cicerone, Enright, Krol and Saccocia – for more information about earth science/geology programs.

EARTH SCIENCES MAJOR – BACHELOR OF ARTS

Grade Requirement

A minimum grade of C- or better is required in all earth science courses and cognates to fulfill the requirements of this program.

Earth Science Core Courses

	Credits
EASC 100 Physical Geology.....	4
EASC 101 Historical Geology.....	4
EASC 250 Geomorphology.....	4
EASC 260 Mineralogy.....	4
EASC 350 Structural Geology.....	4
EASC 360 Petrology (Writing Intensive in the Major Core Curriculum Requirement – CWRM).....	4
EASC 370 Sedimentology and Stratigraphy.....	4
EASC 470 Paleontology.....	4

Earth Science Electives

Two earth science courses at the 200, 300, or 400 level.....6

Notes: An overall maximum of six credits from EASC 497, EASC 498 and EASC 499 may be applied toward this requirement.

EASC 298 and EASC 299 Second Year Seminars and EASC 496 Seminar in Geology may not be applied toward this requirement.

Additional Requirements

MATH 100 Precalculus Mathematics (or equivalent passing score on the mathematics placement test).....	3
Two semesters of chemistry, physics, biology or earth science laboratory science courses.....	8
Total minimum credits: 49	

Core Curriculum Requirements

A minimum of 120 earned hours is required for graduation. These earned hours include the core curriculum requirements as specified in the “Undergraduate Academic Programs” section of this catalog and at the Core Curriculum Web site, www.bridgew.edu/corecurriculum. For additional graduation requirements, see the “Undergraduate Academic Policies” section of this catalog.

EARTH SCIENCES MAJOR – BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Grade Requirement

Not more than one “D” for the required earth science core or elective courses shall be accepted to fulfill the requirements of this program.

Earth Science Core Courses

	Credits
EASC 100 Physical Geology.....	4
EASC 101 Historical Geology.....	4
EASC 250 Geomorphology.....	4
EASC 260 Mineralogy.....	4
EASC 350 Structural Geology.....	4
EASC 360 Petrology (Writing Intensive in the Major Core Curriculum Requirement – CWRM).....	4
EASC 370 Sedimentology and Stratigraphy.....	4
EASC 470 Paleontology.....	4

Earth Science Electives

Four earth science elective courses at the 200, 300, or 400 level. (One of these courses may be GEOG 221) 12

Cognate Requirements

CHEM 141-142 Chemical Principles I and II.....	8
PHYS 181-182 Elements of Physics I and II.....	8
or	
PHYS 243-244 General Physics I and II	
MATH 141-142 Elements of Calculus I and II.....	6
or	
MATH 151-152 Calculus I and II	

Total minimum credits: 66

Note: It is strongly recommended that secondary education students in earth science select the following four courses to meet the elective requirements in this program: GEOG 221 Meteorology, EASC 210 Oceanography, EASC 215 Solar System Astronomy and EASC 240 Hydrology. The content of these courses is an integral part of the Massachusetts Test for Educator Licensure® (MTEL) in Earth Science.

Core Curriculum Requirements

A minimum of 120 earned hours is required for graduation. These earned hours include the core curriculum requirements as specified in the "Undergraduate Academic Programs" section of this catalog and at the Core Curriculum Web site, www.bridgew.edu/corecurriculum. For additional graduation requirements, see the "Undergraduate Academic Policies" section of this catalog.

ENVIRONMENTAL GEOSCIENCES CONCENTRATION

This concentration is designed to provide students with a fundamental understanding of earth processes as well as the specific tools they will employ as environmental geoscience professionals. Career opportunities for graduates exist in federal, state and local government service, industry and environmental studies both with regulatory agencies and consulting firms. The selection of appropriate elective courses within the major as well as in the cognate disciplines of biology and chemistry will prepare the student for environmental work related to the detection and monitoring of pollutants as well as for remediation of affected areas.

Credits

EASC 100 Physical Geology.....	4
EASC 101 Historical Geology.....	4
EASC 240 Hydrology.....	4
EASC 250 Geomorphology.....	4
EASC 260 Mineralogy.....	4
EASC 350 Structural Geology.....	4
EASC 370 Sedimentology and Stratigraphy.....	4
EASC 496 Seminar in Geology.....	1
Plus a minimum of four other earth science courses selected with the written concurrence of the adviser . Other courses may be added or approved as substitutes with approval of the adviser	12
Minimum cognate requirements include:	
MATH 141-142 Elements of Calculus I-II.....	6
or MATH 151-152 Calculus I-II.....	
CHEM 131-132 Survey of Chemistry I-II.....	7
or CHEM 141-142 Chemical Principles I-II.....	
PHYS 181-182 Elements of Physics I-II.....	8
or PHYS 243-244 General Physics I-II.....	
or Two approved biology courses	

Students are also encouraged to take the following courses:

- BIOL 117 The Biological Environment
- BIOL 225 Ecology
- BIOL 327 Wetlands Biology
- CHEM 343-344 Organic Chemistry I-II
- ENGL 201 Technical Writing I

Total minimum credits: 62

Core Curriculum Requirements

A minimum of 120 earned hours is required for graduation. These earned hours include the core curriculum requirements as specified in the "Undergraduate Academic Programs" section of this catalog and at the Core Curriculum Web site, www.bridgew.edu/corecurriculum. For additional graduation requirements, see the "Undergraduate Academic Policies" section of this catalog.

GEOLOGY CONCENTRATION

The most comprehensive of all of the earth science programs within the commonwealth, this concentration provides students with an understanding of the physical and chemical aspects of the earth and its internal as well as surface processes. Career opportunities for graduates exist in federal, state and local government service, industry and environmental studies both with regulatory agencies and consulting firms. With the selection of appropriate electives, students will be prepared for government service, for environmental work related to the detection and monitoring of pollutants as well as for remediation of affected areas, and for careers in such fields as environmental geology, mining or petroleum geology and hydrology. This concentration gives students a solid background in geology and the cognate sciences required to successfully pursue graduate work at leading universities.

Grade Requirement

Not more than one "D" for an Earth Science (EASC) course shall be accepted to fulfill the requirements for this program.

Earth Sciences Core Courses

Credits

EASC 100 Physical Geology.....	4
EASC 101 Historical Geology.....	4
EASC 250 Geomorphology.....	4
EASC 260 Mineralogy.....	4
EASC 350 Structural Geology.....	4
EASC 360 Petrology (Writing Intensive in the Major Core Curriculum Requirement – CWRM).....	4
EASC 370 Sedimentology and Stratigraphy.....	4
EASC 470 Paleontology.....	4

Additional Earth Science Courses

EASC 240 Hydrology.....	4
EASC 450 Geochemistry.....	4
or EASC 460 Geophysics	
EASC 490 Field Methods in Geology.....	4

Earth Science Elective

Any other earth science course at or above EASC 450 3

Cognate Courses

CHEM 141-142 Chemical Principles I and II 8

PHYS 181-182 Elements of Physics I and II 8

or

PHYS 243-244 General Physics I and II

MATH 141-142 Elements of Calculus I and II 6

or

MATH 151-152 Calculus I and II

Total minimum credits: 69

Core Curriculum Requirements

A minimum of 120 earned hours is required for graduation. These earned hours include the core curriculum requirements as specified in the "Undergraduate Academic Programs" section of this catalog and at the Core Curriculum Web site, www.bridgew.edu/corecurriculum. For additional graduation requirements, see the "Undergraduate Academic Policies" section of this catalog.

CHEMISTRY-GEOLOGY MAJOR – BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

A major in chemistry-geology is offered jointly with the Department of Chemical Sciences. See the catalog section "Interdisciplinary and Preprofessional Programs" for details.

DOUBLE MAJOR WITH ELEMENTARY EDUCATION, EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION OR SPECIAL EDUCATION

Students may choose a double major in earth sciences and elementary education, early childhood education or special education for licensure purposes. Please contact the Department of Earth Sciences and the appropriate education department for further information.

EARTH SCIENCES MINOR

Credits

EASC 100 Physical Geology 4

EASC 101 Historical Geology 4

Four additional earth sciences courses

(departmental approval required) 12

Total minimum credits: 20

GEOPHYSICS MINOR

A minor in geophysics is jointly offered with the Department of Physics. For further information, contact the department chairpersons.

MINOR IN SECONDARY EDUCATION (HIGH SCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL OR PREK-12 SPECIALIST)

Students may minor in secondary education (high school, middle school or PreK-12 specialist). Successful completion of this minor will lead to Massachusetts Initial Teacher Licensure. Please refer to the "Department of Secondary Education and Professional Programs" for specific teacher licensure and program requirements.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING EARTH SCIENCES

This program is inactive.

GENERAL SCIENCE

This program is inactive.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

The MAT in Physical Science degree was developed for high school and middle school subject area teachers who have an initial license in chemistry, earth science or physics and are seeking a professional license in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This MAT program is defined to meet the "appropriate master's degree" requirement, which is part of the criteria for professional stage licensure, as set forth in the most recent Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education licensure regulations.

Students should consult the "School of Graduate Studies" section of this catalog for information regarding program policy and procedures.

For current information concerning program requirements, consult the "Physics" section of this catalog.