

WELCOME TO THE WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Geology is a dynamic, interdisciplinary field that studies the world around, under, and over us -- rivers, climate, and planets as well as rocks, mountains, earthquakes, and more -- and is highly relevant for providing answers for today's needs and challenges. The geology major at W&L is flexible enough that you can take courses in several different areas of geosciences, from geophysics and tectonics to oceanography and climate change, GIS and remote sensing to hydrogeology and geomorphology.

The geology major and becoming a geoscientist

The geology major – lots of options

Students can earn a BA or a BS in geology. [Requirements](#) for the major can be found here. A lot of areas of geology and environmental science are represented in our curriculum, as well as relevant field, lab, and computer skills. Discuss your interests with your advisor to find the best path through the major for you.

Geology faculty and staff

[The Geology Department](#) is here to support you. Come chat with any one – or more – of us.

What do geoscientists do?

Want to find out if your interest can turn into a career, look here to learn about becoming a [geoscientist, earth scientist, or environmental scientist](#). Look here to find out what [W&L geo alums](#) have gone off to do, and how they came to the department. Many of our graduates go on to graduate school right away or after a few years.

Career and Professional Development Office

The [CaPD](#) will help you in so many ways. From writing a resume and practicing mock interviews to going on Fall Break trips to visit alums in particular career fields and hearing alum career panels back on campus, this office makes your transition from W&L smoother and easier.

Additional opportunities and expectations of the department

[In addition to a wide range of classes](#)

In addition to choosing from many courses, geology majors can participate in research experiences and attend at national conferences, most costs covered.

The department has an awards ceremony and end-of-year gathering after thesis presentations, at the end of Winter Term. This is an event looked forward to by all, to hear research, see who wins awards, and kick back and enjoy good food and time to chat.

Geology study sessions

Geology study sessions are held in our Introductory Geology classroom four nights a week. Junior and senior majors are present to help with questions or go over any questions you may have about homework, the major, or their favorite easy hike.

The Harte Center for Teaching and Learning offers peer (long-term) tutoring, subject tutoring, the Writing Center, and more resources.

Student Code of Conduct

Successful teaching, learning, and research can only occur when students, faculty, and staff feel safe, secure, and supported. We want you to feel comfortable being yourself. We are thus dedicated to a harassment-free experience for everyone, regardless of gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, age, socio-economic status, culture, membership in student organizations, and/or religion. We do not tolerate harassment in any form, and we expect all members of the community to conform to our Code of Conduct.

Resources to become aware of diversity, equity, and inclusion issues

This resource is being developed. It will include articles, websites, books, videos that are helpful for learning about underrepresented communities and cultures.

Resources for community, wellness and safety

If you need to talk to someone at W&L about a concern or question

[Peer Counselors](#)

[University Counseling](#)

[Office of Inclusion and Engagement](#)

[LGBTQ Peer Counselors](#)

[LIFT-the First Generation Low Income Team](#)

Geoscience community resources

[American Geophysical Union](#)

[Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in](#)

[Geoscience \(AAPIG\)](#)

[Black in Geoscience](#)

[GeoLatinas](#)

[Geological Society of America](#)

[National Association of Black Geoscientists](#)

[SACNAS Advancing Chicanos, Hispanics,](#)

[and Native Americans in Science](#)

[Society of Latinxs/Hispanics in Earth and Space](#)

[Science](#)

Office of Inclusion and Engagement

[OIE](#) supports many students in many areas of student life and academics, from Diversity events and Black Alumni reunions, resource centers for student groups and trainings – and much, much more.

To get outside and get involved

Follow your interests by checking out [student groups](#), the [Outing Club](#) and [Intramurals/Recreation](#).

[Title IX](#)

If you ever feel discriminated against or harassed, reports can be made online, anonymously, [here](#) and through the LiveSafe App. Those reports go directly to W&L Public Safety. Students and employees are encouraged to use LiveSafe to report any incident that needs immediate assistance as someone is monitoring the LiveSafeApp 24/7/365. In-person reports can be made to Lauren Kozak, Title IX Coordinator.