Geological Sciences B.A.

**Major** [1]  
**Bachelor of Arts** [2]  
**Earth and Environmental Sciences** [3]  
**Swenson College of Science and Engineering** [4]

Geological sciences is the scientific study of the origin, history, and structure of the Earth. The study of geology requires a broad base of knowledge in related sciences and mathematics. The BA in geological sciences provides an appropriate educational background for work in areas related to environmental studies, land use planning, and other fields requiring sensitivity to Earth systems.

**Why UMD**

- Active learning environment  
- Access to state-of-the-art instrumentation  
- Focus on undergraduate teaching and research

**Acquired Skills**

- Comprehension - Students will know and be able to explain the basic definitions and core concepts of Geological Science  
- Application - Students will be able to apply geological knowledge and techniques towards solutions to problems  
- Analysis - Students will be able to determine an appropriate method for research, collect data and carry out the research using techniques and equipment specific to geology  
- Communication - Students will be able to write about scientific ideas and present their ideas and findings to technical and non-technical audiences

**Career Possibilities**

Geologists work to understand the history of our planet. By better understanding Earth’s history, they are able to foresee how events and processes of the past might influence the future.

Geologists work in a variety of settings:

- Natural resource companies  
- Environmental consulting companies  
- Government agencies  
- Non-profit organizations  
- Universities

Many geologists do field work at least part of the time. Others spend time in laboratories, classrooms or offices.

**Scholarships**

In Addition to the SCSE scholarships provided our department also offers many others including, the UMD Stephen and Karen Brand Geological Sciences Field Camp Scholarship, the Tools-of-the-Trade Award, the UMD Crain Family Scholarship, the Jill and Terry Swor Scholarship, the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences Faculty Emeriti Scholarship, the Charlie Matsch Surfical Processes Fellowship, the Charlie Matsch Field Camp Scholarship, the Harry and Margaret Walker Geological Sciences Scholarship, and the New Millennium Research and Scholarship.
**Student Clubs**

We have 2 main clubs on campus. The Geology club is an academic organization with the goal of sharing our passion for geology and helping students make connections in the department and throughout the field. We want to show students what geology is really about.

The Environmental Science club is a club for those interested in activities involving science, environmental issues, and conservation. The club takes part in outdoor recreation events as well as restoration projects and trash pick ups.

UMD also has a Society of Economic Geologists student chapter (SEG) on campus. The Society of Economic Geologists is an international organization of individual members with interests in the field of economic geology. The Society’s membership includes representatives from industry, academia, and government institutions. Annual meetings, publications, field conferences, and short courses ensure an active communication of economic geology-related concepts within the membership and with the economic geology profession at large.

**Graduate Report**

Recent UMD Graduates Job Placement Data & Employers

Here's a sampling of positions Geological Sciences B.A. grads have attained six months to one year after graduation.

- Geologist - AMI Consulting Engineers, Superior, WI
- Sample Receiving Technician - Merieux NutriSciences, Minnetonka, MN
- Water Resource Specialist - State of Montana, Department of Natural Resource, Helena, MT

For more data see the [Geological Sciences B.A. Graduate Follow-Up Report](http://academics.d.umn.edu/node/106) [5]. For ideas about Geological Sciences B.A. and other majors visit [Career & Internship Services](https://champ.d.umn.edu/career-internship-services/choosing-major) [6].