Catalog Description

This minor will provide students with a sophisticated understanding of the history of the Earth and of Life. Building on a two-course base of fundamental knowledge of Earth history, the program is completed by two advanced courses addressing specific topics in the evolution and interactions of Earth and Life. Students attempting this minor will need a strong background in Chemistry at the level of CHEM 103. Depending on the advanced courses chosen, other prerequisites will apply, including: MATH 115 or MATH 140 for GEOL 437 (Global Climate Change: Past and Present); MATH 140 or MATH 220, and GEOL 322 (Mineralogy) for GEOL 436 (Biogeochemistry); and GEOL 322 for GEOL 342 (Sedimentation and Stratigraphy). This minor will be of particular relevance to students with broad interests in Geology, Biology, Biochemistry, evolutionary sciences, and Climatology.

Courses required for the minor are:

• One of the following:
  GEOL 100/110 Physical Geology (4)
  GEOL 120/110 Environmental Geology (4)
• GEOL 102 Historical Geology (4)

In addition, the student must choose three from the following:

• GEOL 331 Principles of Paleontology (4) (N.B.: The change of the title of GEOL 331 from Invertebrate Paleontology to Principles of Paleontology is currently underway)
• GEOL 341 Structural Geology (4)
• GEOL 342 Sedimentation and Stratigraphy (4)
• GEOL 436 Biogeochemistry (3)
• GEOL 437 Global Climate Change: Past and Present (3)

Depending on the optional course taken, there is a total of 18 - 20 required credits (see prerequisites). All courses presented for the minor must be passed with a grade of C or better.

Declared Geology majors and students who have completed the major may not also minor in Earth History.