Geology

Degree Offered
• Associate of Arts

Nature of Program
The associates degree program is designed for a student planning to pursue graduate study in geology or work as a professional geologist. Courses explore earth materials, processes that alter the Earth, and the history of life on Earth. Courses in chemistry, physics, and math develop the necessary knowledge and skills base for higher level geology courses and areas of specialization. The most common types of geology specializations within advanced geology degrees are economic geology, mining geology, engineering geology, and petroleum geology.

The associate degree program provides the foundation to complete a bachelor program in geology at West Virginia University. Students planning to enter a bachelor program at another institution should determine the transfer equivalencies for the courses offered at Potomac State College of WVU and the institution they plan to attend following completion of the associate degree program.

Career Opportunities
Qualified students are encouraged to seek a graduate degree; however B.S. geologists who have developed solid technical and communication skills have excellent employment prospects in the energy industry and environmental and geotechnical firms. A major in geology prepares students for professional positions in industry and government services, as well as other career options.

FACULTY
CHAIR
• Vicki Huffman - Ph.D. Biomedical Science

GENERAL EDUCATION FOUNDATIONS
Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. (http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef)

NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEF requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GEFs you will need to select.

General Education Foundations
F1 - Composition & Rhetoric 3-6
ENGL 101 Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric
& ENGL 102 and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research
or ENGL 103 Accelerated Academic Writing
F2A/F2B - Science & Technology 4-6
F3 - Math & Quantitative Skills 3-4
F4 - Society & Connections 3
F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past 3
F6 - The Arts & Creativity 3
F7 - Global Studies & Diversity 3
F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree) 9
Total Hours 31-37

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.

Curriculum Requirements
Minimum GPA of 2.0 is required in all GEOL courses.

GEF Elective Requirements (4, 5, and 6) 9
ENGL 101 Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric 6
& ENGL 102 and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research (GEF 1)
MATH 126 College Algebra 3
MATH 128 Plane Trigonometry 3
### Suggested Plan of Study

#### First Year

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<td>ENGL 101 (GEF 1)</td>
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<td>GEOL 101 &amp; GEOL 102 (GEF 2)</td>
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#### Second Year

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<td>PHYS 101 or 111</td>
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<td>MATH 155 (GEF 3)</td>
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<td>GEF Elective - ECAS International Requirement (GEF 7)</td>
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Total credit hours: 60

### Major Learning Outcomes

**GEOLOGY**

Upon successful completion of the A.A. degree, Geology majors will be able to:

1. Show competence in the identification of minerals, rocks, and fossils using various field and lab techniques.
2. Describe the connections among energy, mineral, and hydrological resource exploitation and their impacts on Earth environments.
3. Describe an exposure of rocks in the field including rock type, sedimentary structures, and fossils.
4. Describe the basic geological history of Earth.
5. Transfer into a bachelor degree program in geology.