Earth Sciences

Department of Geosciences

Earth Sciences is the study of interactions between the Earth, atmosphere, and biosphere. It involves a mixture of geosciences, geography, meteorology, and other natural sciences. Earth scientists seek to use a comprehensive understanding of the Earth and environmental processes to solve big-picture problems in the world and answer outstanding questions about the universe.

PennState
College of Earth
and Mineral Sciences

Visit: www.ems.psu.edu/academics/find-program-study/earth-sciences

Overview

This major provides a comprehensive program in environmental sciences based on a strong emphasis in Earth sciences. It is especially directed toward study of the problems that arise from the complex interaction of humanity's technological and social activities with the natural environment.

Graduates are in demand for positions in government, industry, and consulting. Professional activities include gathering and evaluating data on environments; management and coordination of specialized programs in environmental control and modification; and industrial and government planning.

Suitable choices of courses may qualify students for graduate work in several fields.

You might be a good fit

- You enjoy collaborating with people who have different perspectives and backgrounds.
- You have a broad interest in geosciences, meteorology, and/or geography, and would like to explore all of these disciplines and learn where they intersect and overlap.
- You seek to personalize an interdisciplinary curriculum that combines Earth science with other natural sciences such as planetary science or marine science.
- You like learning about human interactions with the Earth.

The flexibility of the Earth Science program has allowed me to explore diverse subjects and truly understand what my interests are, which makes looking to the future all the more exciting.

~ Gemma Morrison

Internships and scholarships

The College of Earth and Mineral Sciences awards more than $2.5 million annually, including more than $92,000 exclusively for students interested in Earth Sciences.

Clubs and activities

- American Water Resources Association Penn State Student Chapter
- Geosciences Club
- Association for Women Geoscientists

Why choose Penn State?

The flexible curriculum includes your choice of an interdisciplinary minor, which might include Climatology; Earth Systems; Earth and Sustainability; Energy Business and Finance; Marine Science; Planetary Science and Astronomy; or Watersheds and Water Resources. If you want to personalize your own curriculum, the Earth Sciences major may be right for you.