The earth is roughly 4.5 billion years old – and since humans have only been around for the last several thousand, it’s safe to say there is still a lot to learn. But since 1963, the Department of Geosciences has been providing a comprehensive education to future scientists and science educators, giving them access to some of the most interesting and relevant developments in their field. Some have worked alongside faculty to discover a natural gas field that has the potential to more than double the current U.S. annual output. Others have researched the safety and integrity of underground nuclear waste facilities. Whatever the topic, SUNY Fredonia professors and staff are committed to including students in their quest to unearth more and more knowledge of this ever-surprising planet we call home.
At SUNY Fredonia, you’ll experience the full and fascinating gamut of geosciences as you study how the Earth operates as a complex, dynamic system. The Department of Geosciences offers bachelor’s degree programs in:

- Geology
- Geochemistry
- Geophysics
- Earth Sciences
- Earth Sciences (Adolescence Education)

The department also offers a minor in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and is affiliated with the Interdisciplinary Studies major program in Environmental Sciences.

In Investing in Our Facilities

The department is presently located in Houghton Hall, which houses numerous classrooms and labs especially designed for its needs. However, Fredonia is in the process of creating a brand new Science and Technology Center which will begin construction in 2011. This state-of-the-art building (designed to be adjacent to and adjoining with Houghton Hall) will become an academic centerpiece of the Fredonia campus, providing students and faculty with top-of-the-line smart classrooms, teaching laboratories, and research facilities. The Science and Technology Center will allow the department to undertake new initiatives in a variety of disciplines, collaborate more with off-campus organizations, and provide a more complete educational experience to students.

The department is also the home of the SUNY Fredonia Shale Institute, a focal point for the study of Marcellus Shale.

Careers

SUNY Fredonia geosciences graduates hold a wide variety of professional positions. Many have gone on to become university professors, biomedical researchers, environmental consultants and engineers, high school earth science teachers, employees at prominent energy companies, even space scientists. About 50% of SUNY Fredonia geosciences graduates have continued their education at some of the most prestigious schools in the country.

Faculty and Undergraduate Research

The Department of Geosciences faculty has a wealth of experience based on decades of teaching and research, and as an undergraduate, you’ll have opportunities to collaborate with them on projects.

Geologists are employed in a variety of settings, including environmental sciences, petroleum and base-metal exploration, civil engineering, information science, urban planning, and other areas.

Opportunities also exist in education and with government agencies.

Future geologists experience the latest technological advancements not only in a typical classroom environment, but also through invaluable field training experiences.

Gordon C. Baird, Ph.D.
University of Rochester

Walther M. Barnard, Ph.D.
The Pennsylvania State University

John L. Berkley, Ph.D.
University of New Mexico/Inst. of Meteoritics

Ann K. Deakin, Ph.D.
State University at Buffalo

Gary Lash, Ph.D.
Lehigh University

Kim Weborg-Benson, M.S.
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Michael P. Wilson, Ph.D.
Syracuse University

Find more information about Geosciences opportunities at these websites:

- www.agiweb.org/workforce
- www.informine.com
- www.nysed.gov
- www.aapg.org

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- www.nysed.gov
- www.aapg.org