

September 24, 2014
Geology BS Field requirement

An important component of our B.S. in Geological Sciences degree is training in the field. Traditionally, this requirement has been met when a student takes a formal geological field camp. Although the faculty strongly recommends formal field geology courses, we recognize that there are now a wide range of alternative field-based activities that give students an immersive experience in geology. Accordingly, we outline below three paths students can select to meet the field requirement.

A. Geological field camp participation

You can access a list of field camps at <http://geology.com/field-camp.shtml>

These camps generally have 2 options: credit bearing and non-credit bearing. Credit bearing courses have higher costs. EES accepts both options, but you can only apply for transfer credit (such that the course appears on your UR transcript) if you take a credit-bearing course. If you decide to take a formal course with credit, you should complete a course approval form and bring it to the EES department to have the course reviewed for approval. At the completion of the field course, you will need to acquire a transcript from the institution where you attend the field camp. A minimum grade of a "B" is needed for EES BS major transfer credit.

Please have your official transcript sent to the College Center for Advising Services, University of Rochester, Lattimore 312, Box 270402, Rochester, NY 14627. Also please have a copy sent directly to our department at: University of Rochester, Dept. of Earth and Environmental Sciences, 227 Hutchison Hall, Rochester, NY 14627 (unofficial copy is fine for EES purposes).

If you decide to take a non-credit bearing field course, you will need to submit that request, with information on the course, in the form of a letter to the EES Department (c/o Kathy Lutz). You are encouraged to seek advice from your EES major advisor. Your request will be reviewed, and you will be informed if the course meets our requirements. At the completion of the course, you will need to obtain (and submit to EES) a letter from the institution where you attended the field camp stating that you completed the camp.

B. Other field experience

Examples of other types of field experience include (but are not restricted to) scientific cruises studying marine geology, geoarcheological studies, and field studies focused on planetary analog sites. Time devoted to this activity should equate to that of a geological field camp (generally 4 weeks or more). Students who wish to use such experience to fulfill the BS field requirement should propose this in a letter to the EES Department (c/o Kathy Lutz) **prior to taking part in the activity**. Such requests will again be reviewed by the faculty. Sometimes alternatives may be suggested, or a program consisting of multiple field activities may be recommended to students

(to equate with the time commitment/training of a geological field camp). The required documentation of completion of the activity (or activities) will also be outlined for students.

C. Field experience with University of Rochester professors

Finally, students may also fulfill the field requirement by extensive field studies (generally lasting four weeks or more) with a faculty member and subsequent (or concurrent) enrollment in EES299. Enrollment in EES299 has to be approved by the faculty instructor and EES Departmental Chair. A student may also propose a series of shorter field activities that together equate with the intense geological training of a standard field camp, and then enroll in EES299 as a capstone course.