

# Program Change Request

## New Program Proposal

Date Submitted: 08/14/20 11:43 am

Viewing: : **Geology, BS/Earth Systems Science, Accelerated MS**

Last edit: 09/11/20 11:21 am

Changes proposed by: jbazaz

Are you completing this form on someone else's behalf?

Yes

Requestor:

### In Workflow

1. Registrar-Programs:Workflow Review
2. AOES Committee
3. AOES Chair
4. GGS Chair
5. SC Curriculum Committee
6. SC Associate Dean
7. SC CAT Editor
8. Assoc Provost-Undergraduate
9. Assoc Provost-Graduate
10. Registrar-Programs

### Approval Path

1. 08/17/20 11:58 am  
Tory Sarro (vsarro):  
Approved for Registrar-Programs:Workflow Review
2. 08/25/20 9:51 pm  
Barry Klinger (bklinger):  
Approved for AOES Committee
3. 09/11/20 11:22 am  
Jim Kinter (ikinter):  
Approved for AOES Chair
4. 09/24/20 12:10 pm  
Nathan Burtch

(nburtch): Approved  
for GGS Chair

Name	Extension	Email
Mark Uhen	5264	muhen

**Effective Catalog:** 2021-2022

**Program Level:** Undergraduate & Graduate (BAMs)

**Program Type:** Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's

**Title:** Geology, BS/Earth Systems Science, Accelerated MS

**Registrar's Office  
Use Only –  
Program Start Term**

**Concentration(s):**

**College/School:** College of Science

**Department /  
Academic Unit:** Atmospheric, Oceanic, & Earth Sciences

**Jointly Owned  
Program?** Yes

**Participating  
Colleges**

	College
1	College of Science

**Participating  
Departments**

	Department
1	Atmospheric, Oceanic, & Earth Sciences
2	Geography & Geoinformation Science

**Academic Themes:**  
Science & Math

### Justification

The Earth Systems Science, MS is a popular degree with students seeking to study geology. Many Mason undergraduates would like to pursue a Master's degree, and adding an accelerated MS that links the undergraduate Geology BS with the Earth Systems Science MS will allow these students to remain at Mason for this graduate degree, and to attain the MS degree in a shorter amount of time and with smaller expenses compared to taking a Master's degree elsewhere.

The current Earth Science, BS is being renamed "Geology, BS" for fall 2021.

## Catalog Published Information

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**Accelerated  
Description/Dual  
Degree  
Description:**

### Overview

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Geology, and Earth sciences more broadly, are extremely important to society and our economy as they deal with our planet, our oceans, and our climate. Degrees in Earth science are broadly useful in industry, government, conservation, and many other areas of our economy. While there are many positions in the field that only require a bachelor's degree, many employers either prefer a Master's degree, or a Master's degree can be the key to further promotion within a particular organization. This Accelerated Master's degree is designed to give students the skills and the degrees that they need to be both initially successful, and to ensure long-term advancement in their chosen professions.

### Application Requirements

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Applicants should be enrolled in the Geology, BS degree at Mason. Previous coursework should include two semesters each of calculus, chemistry, and physics, and one semester of statistics. Applicants should have a minimum GPA of 3.00.

Applicants to all graduate programs at Mason must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in the [Graduate Admission Policies](#) section of this catalog, excluding the GRE exam requirement (which is not required for those enrolled in the accelerated program). This includes three letters of recommendation (at least one from a former professor or someone with a PhD), a recent resume, a statement of interest/research goals (including information on the applicant's proposed MS research), and a letter from their advisor. This letter should state that the advisor agrees to take on the candidate as an MS student, addresses how the candidate would be a good fit for them, and indicate why the applicant's research topic would be suitable for study.

### Accelerated Option Requirements

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Students admitted to this program may take graduate courses after completing 75 undergraduate credits, and up to 12 credits of appropriate graduate coursework may be used in partial satisfaction of the requirements for the undergraduate degree. If students earn at least a 3.00 GPA in these classes, they are granted advanced standing in the master's program and must then complete an additional 24 credits to receive the master's degree. All other requirements for the Earth Systems Science, MS, must be met.

To apply these credits to the master's degree, students must request that the credits be moved from the undergraduate degree to the graduate degree using the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition form found on the Office of the [University Registrar's website](#).

For more detailed information, see [AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees](#). For policies governing all graduate programs, see [AP.6 Graduate Policies](#).

## Reserve Graduate Credit

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Undergraduate students may also take up to 6 additional and appropriate graduate credits as reserve graduate credit. These credits do not apply to the undergraduate degree, but will reduce the subsequent master's degree credits accordingly (e.g., with 6 credits counted toward the undergraduate and graduate degrees plus the maximum 6 reserve credits for the master's, an MS could be completed with 18 post-bachelor's credits). The ability to take courses for reserve graduate credit is available to all high achieving undergraduates with the permission of the department.

## Graduate Course Suggestions

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Students should consult with an advisor before registering for graduate credits.

<a href="#">GEOL 504</a>	Sedimentary Geology	4
<a href="#">GEOL 506</a>	Soil Science	3
<a href="#">GEOL 513</a>	Hydrogeology	3
<a href="#">GEOL 521</a>	Geology of Energy Resources	3
<a href="#">GEOL 532</a>	Paleoclimatology	3
<a href="#">GEOL 534</a>	Vertebrate Paleontology	4
<a href="#">GEOL 536</a>	Paleontology Seminar	1-2
<a href="#">GEOL 553</a>	Field Mapping Techniques	3

### Additional Attachments

### Reviewer Comments

### Additional Comments

### Is this course required of all students in this degree program?

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Key: 865