**New Undergraduate Program (Majors, Minors, Sequences) Proposal  
Illinois State University - University Curriculum Committee**

**Program Department**   Geography, Geology, and the Environment

**Submission Date**  Wednesday, December 6, 2023

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**Version**   3   **ID**   450

**Title of New Program**   Geology Major, Accelerated Sequence

**Proposed Starting Catalog Year**   2025-2026

**1.**

**Proposed Action**

New Major

New Minor

✓

New Sequence

More than 50% of courses in this program are Distance Education

**Sequence Major**

Geology

**2.**

**Provide *Undergraduate Catalog* copy for new program.**

**Department of Geography, Geology, and the Environment - Main catalog page copy:**

**Students in the Geology major must complete one of the following sequences.**

**Accelerated Sequence**

This sequence allows students to take up to 12 hours of approved graduate courses that will count for both the undergraduate Geology Program and graduate Hydrogeology program. Students can then apply to the Hydrogeology graduate program in the spring of their senior year. Enrollment in the Accelerated Sequence does not guarantee final admission into the Hydrogeology graduate program. Program Admission Requirements for New and Continuing Students: High achieving students with a cumulative GPA of 3.20 or higher may apply to the accelerated sequence one year before completion of their undergraduate degree. For additional information on minimum requirements for admission and the application and selection process, visit IllinoisState.edu/Majors.

**Accelerated Sequence course requirements catalog page copy:**

Major in Geology, ​Accelerated Sequence  
Degree offered: B.S.  
Minimum required credit hours: 64

* GEO 202
* GEO 203
* GEO 280
* GEO 285
* GEO 290
* GEO 295
* GEO 296
* GEO 395
* CHE 140
* CHE 141
* MAT 145

**Take 1 additional Geology applied quantitative elective**

* GEO 360 or 460
* GEO 361 or 461
* GEO 362 or 462
* GEO 363 or 463

**Choose one of the following options**

* PHY 108
* PHY 110

**Take 15 credit hours of additional Geology electives. MAT 146 or PHY 109 or 111 may also count towards this elective requirement.**

**Notes:**

* Recommended Graduate Level Courses electives: GEO 418, GEO 419, GEO 423, GEO 465, GEO 480, GEO 482, and GEO 488A04
* To graduate in this sequence students must take at least one course at the graduate level. Up to 12 hours of approved graduate courses may count for both the undergraduate Geology program and graduate Hydrogeology program. The student must consult with an advisor and the instructor prior to the start of each new course to ensure approval.
* Enrollment in the Accelerated Sequence does not guarantee final admission into the Hydrogeology graduate program.

**3.**

**Provide a description for the proposed program.**

The Geology Accelerated Sequence allows qualified Illinois State undergraduate Geology majors to earn a master’s degree in Hydrogeology one year after completing the BS. A student in this program will earn 12 hours of graduate credit in their senior, or junior, year. The remaining graduate degree requirements will be completed with only one, to one and a half years of additional enrollment.

This program is for current Illinois State students only.

**4.**

**Provide a rationale of proposed program.**

As stated above, the Geology Accelerated Sequence allows qualified Illinois State undergraduate Geology BS majors to earn a master’s degree in Hydrogeology one year after completing the BS, which is the primary reason for the proposed program. The program can be advertised to prospective undergraduate students as a means to achieve an advance (graduate) degree in a shorter time period. The accelerated sequence will also lead to a slight increase the number of students enrolled in the Hydrogeology MS program.

**5.**

**Describe the expected effects of the proposed program on existing campus programs (if applicable).**

The proposed sequence builds of the current Geology BS program. There will be no new courses for the program. Students in the program will be enrolled ISU students that apply for and are accepted into the accelerated sequence. From a graduate program perspective, the only expected effect of the proposed sequence is to increase, by 1 or 2 students per year, the number of students in the Hydrogeology MS Program.

**6.**

**Provide a sample four-year plan of study that fulfills the following requirements:** 120 hours, 42 senior college hours (200 and 300 level courses), and 39 General Education Program hours or 36 hours with exemption. If the program is a BS program, show the BS-SMT degree requirement. If the program is from CAS, show Foreign Language Requirement (LAN 111/LAN 112). Confirm General Education requirement exemptions on the General Education page of the current Academic Catalog.*4-year plans are not required for minor program proposals.*

**Year 1 (27–28 hours)**

**Fall (14 hours)**

ENG 101 – Composition as Critical Inquiry (CC) (3)

MAT 145 – Calculus I (M) (4)

CHE 140 – General Chemistry I (NSAC) (4)

General Education Course (3)

**Spring (13-14 hours)**

COM 110 – Communication as Critical Inquiry (CC) (3)

CHE 141 – General Chemistry II (SMT) (4)

General Education course - QR Requirement (3-4)

General Education course (3)

**Year 2 (33-34 hours)**

**Fall (14-15 hours)**

GEO 202 – Evolution of the Earth (SMT) (3)

GEO 203 – Minerals, Rocks, Fossils, and Maps (3)

PHY 108 or 110 – College Physics I or Physics for Science and Engineering I (4-5)

Foreign Language (4)

**Spring (18–19 hours)**

General elective course (3)

Foreign Language or University-wide elective (3–4)

General Education course (3)

Major elective course (3)

University-wide elective (3)

University-wide elective (3)

**Year 3 (40 hours)**

**Fall (17)**

GEO 280 – Mineralogy (4)

GEO 290 – Structural Geology (4)

GEO 295 – Sedimentology (3)

Major elective course (3)

Senior University-wide elective (3)

**Spring (17 hours)**

GEO 285 – Petrology (4)

Major elective course (4)

GEO 296 – Stratigraphy (3)

IDEAS course or University-wide elective (3)

AMALI course or University-wide elective (3)

**Summer (6 undergraduate hours)**

GEO 395 – Field Geology (6)

**Year 4 (33 total hours: 21 undergraduate hours and 12 graduate hours)**

**Fall (18 total hours: 12 undergraduate hours and 6 graduate hours)**

Applied Quantitative Major elective course (3)

Major elective course (3)

IDEAS course or University-wide elective (3)

AMALI course or University-wide elective (3)

GEO Hydrogeology 400 elective (3)

GEO Hydrogeology 400 elective (3)

**Spring (15 total hours: 9 undergraduate hours and 6 graduate hours)**

University-wide elective (3)

University-wide elective (3)

General Education course (3)

GEO Hydrogeology 400 elective (3)

GEO Hydrogeology 400 elective (3)

**7.**

**Describe the expected curricular changes required, including new courses. If proposals for new courses have also been submitted, please reference those related proposals here:**

No curricular changes are proposed to the Geology program with respect to the proposed sequence. However, a concurrent proposal revising the Geology curriculum has been submitted. The Accelerated sequence uses the proposed curriculum and plan of study.

**8.**

**Anticipated funding needs and source of funds.**

No additional funding is needing. The Financial Implications form has been completed and attached to this proposal.

**9.**

**No**

**Does this program count for teacher education?**

**10.**

**No**

**Is this an Interdisciplinary Studies program?**

**11.**

**The following questions must be answered.**

**Yes**

Have you confirmed that Milner Library has sufficient resources for the proposed program?

**No**

Are more than 120 hours required to complete a degree with this major?

**No**

Beyond General Education, does the major require more than 66 semester hours?

**No**

Does this sequence (if in a major) require more than 55 semester hours of courses in the major department/school?

**Yes**

Does this program stipulate specific general education courses offered in the major department/school as a part of the major requirements only if such courses serve as prerequisites for other courses required by the major?

Explain why specific general education courses are required.

GEO 202 Evolution of the Earth  
  
This courses provides required knowledge concerning the history of the Earth not available in other major classes.

**Yes**

Does this program stipulate specific course requirements (majors/sequences only) that also satisfy general education and/or IAI requirements?

Please specify those courses below.

MAT 145 General Education: MAT - Mathematics; IAI Code: IAI M1 900-1 College-level Calculus I  
PHY 108 or PHY 110: General Education: NSAP - Natural Science Alternatives Physics; IAI Code: IAI P1 900L General Education Physics or General Education: NSAP - Natural Science Alternatives Physics; IAI Code: IAI P2 900L General Physical Science  
CHE 140 Natural Science/Natural Science Alternative; IAI P1 902L General Education Chemistry

**No**

Is the proposed program intended to be longer than four years (as indicated by the plan of study)?

**N.A.**

Have letter(s) of concurrence from affected departments/schools been obtained?