WE'RE PRETTY GNEISS

DON'T TAKE US FOR GRANITE

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL GEOSCIENCES
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Visit us in SSMB for department tours and swag!

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FACULTY & STAFF
We have 15 faculty with diverse research activities. You will find a professor no matter your interest.

PHOTO GALLERY
Do it for the Gram
Who We Are

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences works closely with our students in one of the largest geoscience departments in the U.S. Our students are engaged in geological disciplines throughout their tenure at the College of Charleston through undergraduate research projects, unique travel courses, and collaborative projects with private companies, public agencies and nonprofit organizations. Our program has a uniquely family-like atmosphere that doesn’t terminate upon graduation. Many alumni stay in touch through our Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn accounts.

The Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences offers a major, minor, and broad array of topical and interdisciplinary elective courses in the geosciences. Our department also covers a wide range of research areas for undergraduate, graduate, and faculty research. From local to regional to extraterrestrial studies, the research conducted within the department covers a wide range of topics across several research clusters. Our collaborative projects integrate research across programs on campus and with local, state, federal, and international groups.

earth and sky, woods and fields, lakes and rivers, the mountain and the sea, are excellent schoolmasters, and teach some of us more than we can ever learn from books. – John Lubbock
What We Do

What It Means to Be a Geologist

The word geology comes from Greek roots meaning earth (geo) and study of (logos). In concurrence with its broad meaning, the study of geology has many and varied fields, being defined as the science that deals with the earth’s physical structure and substance, its history, and the processes that act on it. The faculty at the College of Charleston specialize in each of the differing studies.

Not sure if you want to study geology? The first intro course offered is Geology 103 (Environmental Geology), followed by Geology 105 (Earth History).

- Climate Change/Environmental Geology
- Coastal Geology and Hazards
- Geochemistry
- Geographic Information Systems/Mapping
- Hydrology/Water Resources
- Marine Geology
- Paleontology
- Planetary Geology

don't take geologists for granite.
Where We Go

WANDERLUST

All B.S. Geology majors are required to take a 4-credit Field Studies course. Courses are offered during Maymester, Summer I, or Summer II. Students have the option to take a Field Studies course based in the U.S. or abroad, depending on their interests.

Students are allowed (and encouraged) to study abroad in addition to Field Studies courses through the College of Charleston’s Center for International Education.

Past Field Studies - U.S.
- New Mexico, Utah, & Colorado
- Wyoming

Past Field Studies - Abroad
- Ecuador and Galapagos
- India
- South Africa

*a traveler without observation is a bird without wings.* -moslih eddin saadi
Why We're Fun

WE ARE A DIAMOND A DOZEN

We’re outdoorsy and have a rocking sense of humor. We love some quality department bonding and have pretty great taste in music. You won’t find faculty and staff wearing Aloha shirts every Friday in any other department. Seniors receive an Aloha shirt of their very own at our Senior Roast where we "lei" down some good jokes.

Field trips are a given for a geology major. Some local trips include Folly Beach and Stono Preserve near Johns Island.

Puns and games? We’re here for it. Faculty and staff vs. students bowling matches, field days, and cookouts are a few of our favorite things. And if you can’t already tell, we strongly believe a good geology pun is its own reword.

Visit our Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to see the fun!

of quartz i love geology!
We'd dig it if you came for a visit!

Visit us on the second floor of the School of Sciences and Mathematics Building.

When you stop by, mention this online information packet to our Office Manager, Kristen White, in SSMB Suite 224E for some geology swag!

Want to learn more about the Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences? Fill out an interest form or email our office manager.
"I will always be grateful for the department's help throughout my time here at the college! My future plans as of now are to work for Echo81 in Georgia as an intern this summer, then pursue a seafloor mapping career in the fall. I'm excited to gain more work experience while hopefully travelling the world. And maybe play for Barcelona's men's soccer team if I'm being optimistic. Thank you again for this awesome award." - Cole Budi '21, Department Chair's Award Recipient

"Thank you so very much for this award. I cannot think of a better way to finish my degree! With the great amount of talent that flourishes in the geology department, I am positive it was a tough choice, and I feel honored to have been chosen. It is something I will carry with me with pride, always. Along with that rock hammer! Following graduation, I will be taking a break from school, to travel and get ready to apply to graduate school, in 2022. Thank you once more to the department, you all are a truly amazing group of people." - Marisa Knight '21, Estwing Geology Field Research Award Recipient

Meet Clara Meier, also sometimes known as "Clara Caldera." Clara recently participated in a four month season with the Southwest Conservation Corps on a 14ers trail crew. The goal for the season was to reroute a summit trail leading to the top of one of Colorado's rugged 14,000ft. mountains- Kit Carson.

"One of my favorite memories was the senior roast for the class of 2019! Although I never got to have one due to Covid, I remember watching the roast as a Junior and just thinking how funny, unique and special this tradition is. It's not often you find a department as closely knit as this one.

- Clara Meier '20, Estwing Geology Field Research Award Recipient

Alumni
"I was happy to be a part of this great department. I can't imagine my education going as well as it did anywhere else and I owe it to the awesome environment you and everyone involved created. It was never a chore to be involved with y'all, I enjoyed every minute of it."
- Sam Croft '20, Department Chair's Award Recipient

"First of all thank you so much, I really don't know what to say. My future plans at present are to look into volunteer and temporary job positions in fossil preparation, and begin applying for graduate school. Thank you again, I've really enjoyed my time in the Geology Department, and I'll definitely miss everyone as I move forward."
- Suzanne Grantham '20

"From the very beginning in 103 I felt like this major was the one for me, but the department is what brought the enthusiasm out of me. The willingness and openness to take students on for research opportunities, even if the student has little to no experience in that section of geology, allowed me to figure out my niche and how I wanted to turn this major into a career. I plan on being a part of the CofC geology family for a long time."
- Noah Katz '20
"EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON WHICH WE CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD."
- NELSON MANDELA
"THE WHOLE PURPOSE OF EDUCATION IS TO TURN MIRRORS INTO WINDOWS."
SYNDEY J. HARRIS

FACULTY & STAFF
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL GEOSCIENCES

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

ANTON DUMARS
ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR

CYNTHIA HALL
ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR

MICHAEL JORDAN
ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR

JENNIFER KIST
ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR

LAUREN MAURIZIO
ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR

CAITLYN MAYER
ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR

BRAD THOMPSON
ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR

SARAH BOESSENECKER
COLLECTIONS, EXHIBITS & OUTREACH COORDINATOR

KRISTEN WHITE
OFFICE MANAGER

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FILLED WITH INSPIRATION AND INTRIGUE. AN INTENSE VISUAL TREAT!

- THE PHOTOGRAPHY REVIEW

ICONIC SNAPSHOTS
A COMPILATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

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EVERYONE WANTS TO LIVE ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN BUT ALL THE HAPPINESS AND GROWTH OCCURS WHILE YOU'RE CLIMBING IT.

ANDY ROONEY