

Departmental Honors for Geology and Earth Systems

The departmental honors program is part of Commonwealth College where students complete in depth course work within their major and pursue a research thesis.

Students who are not already in the Commonwealth College are eligible if they have completed one full-time semester of 12 or more graded credits at UMass Amherst and earned an overall and most recent semester GPA of 3.400 or higher at UMass Amherst. <https://www.honors.umass.edu/admissions/apply-current-students>

Requirements:

- l) Two honors courses within the major.

These are the same as the base course but with an additional 1-credit that provides more in depth study for enrolled students. Any student can enroll in these colloquia.

201HH	<i>History of the Earth</i>	Leckie
231HH	<i>Field Methods</i>	Various
331HH	<i>Geologic Mapping</i>	Williams
311HH	<i>Mineralogy</i>	Seaman
321HH	<i>Petrology</i>	Seaman
354HH	<i>Climatology</i>	Rawlins
415HH	<i>Introduction to geochemistry</i>	Pestch & Burns
431HH	<i>Structural Geology</i>	Cooke and Williams
445HH	<i>Sedimentology</i>	Woodruff
587HH	<i>Hydrogeology</i>	Boutt

Students can also satisfy the requirement of honors courses within the major by taking any courses at the 600 level or higher. This includes all of our reading seminars offered every semester (hydro seminar, structure seminar etc).

- l) 6 credit thesis project

The thesis advisor and student fill out a contract and put together a research proposal that are submitted to Comm Coll for review. This proposal should present a sound research plan as well as clear mentorship and assessment criteria. The thesis is typical enrolled as 499Y in the Fall and 499T in the Spring. The emphasis is on data collection/analysis in the Fall and writing in the Spring.

The 6 thesis research credits count towards the elective credits for both the Geology and Earth Systems programs.

Honors Program Coordinator for Geology and Earth Systems:
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