The earth, environmental, and planetary sciences encompass a wide range of inquiries into the physical, chemical, and biological processes that shape the earth and the planets. Application of these inquiries to understanding a planet’s evolution through time is a unique attribute of geological investigations. Knowledge of the past and present reveals the constraints of our environment and serves as a guide for the future.

In recent years, significant advances have been made in the understanding of Earth’s interior, the nature of surface and near-surface processes, the history of the Earth’s climate, the ecology of living and ancient organisms, and the comparative geology of other planets. Geological knowledge is fundamental to resource conservation, land use planning and other environmental concerns.

Department faculty have active research programs to investigate planet formation and evolution, and Earth and environmental history. The department offers degree programs leading to the Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Science (BS) in geological sciences, BA in environmental geology, BA in environmental studies, Master of Science (MS), and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). The Environmental Studies Program is described elsewhere in this bulletin.

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Planetary geophysics

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Invertebrate paleontology

Nathan Jacobson, PhD
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(Yale University)
Adjunct Associate Professor

Elham Mohsenian, PhD
(University of Leoben)
Adjunct Assistant Professor

Anne Willem Omta, PhD
(Vrije Universiteit)
Adjunct Assistant Professor

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Adjunct Associate Professor

David Saja, PhD
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Emeritus

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Professor Emeritus
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Visiting Faculty

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Visiting Assistant Professor
Geomicropaleontology; environmental and climate change; coastal sedimentology

Anne Omta, PhD
(Vrije Universiteit)
Visiting Assistant Professor
Ocean biogeochemistry; climate dynamics

Programs

• Environmental Geology, BA
• Environmental Studies, BA
• Environmental Studies, Minor
• Geological Sciences, BA
• Geological Sciences, BS
• Geological Sciences, Minor
• Geological Sciences, MS
• Geological Sciences, PhD

Dual Degrees

• Undergraduate Programs toward Graduate or Professional Degrees