SCHOOL OF EARTH SCIENCES

Dean: Pamela A. Matson

The School of Earth Sciences includes the departments of Geological and Environmental Sciences, Geophysics, Petroleum Engineering, the interdisciplinary Earth Systems undergraduate program, and the graduate level Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources (IPER) and the Earth, Energy, and Environmental Sciences Graduate Program (EEES). The Earth Systems Program offers study of biophysical and social dimensions of the Earth system focusing on environment and resource issues.

The aims of the school are (1) to prepare students for careers in the fields of biogeochemistry, environment and sustainable resource studies, geology, geochemistry, geomechanics, geophysics, geostatistics, hydrogeology, petroleum engineering, and petroleum geology; (2) to conduct research in the Earth sciences; and (3) to provide opportunities for Stanford undergraduates to learn about the planet's history, to understand the natural energy and resource base that supports humanity, and to appreciate the geological and geophysical hazards that affect human societies, as well as those factors that contribute to the quality of our environment.

To accomplish these objectives, the school offers a variety of programs adaptable to the needs of the individual student: four-year undergraduate programs leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.S.); five-year programs leading to the coterminal Bachelor of Science and Master of Science (M.S.); and graduate programs offering the degrees of Master of Science, Engineer, and Doctor of Philosophy as described below. Details of individual degree programs are found in the section for each department or program. In addition, it is possible for an undergraduate to develop an individually designed major in the Earth Sciences.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Any undergraduate student admitted to the University may declare a major in one of the Earth Science departments or programs by contacting the appropriate department or program office. Students interested in creating an individually designed major should visit the dean's office.

Specific requirements for the B.S. degree are listed in each department or program section. Departmental academic advisers work with students to define a career or academic goal and assure that the student's curricular choices are appropriate to the pursuit of that goal. Advisers can help devise a sensible (and enjoyable) course of study that meets degree requirements and provides the student with opportunities to experience advanced courses, seminars, and research projects. To maximize such opportunities, students are encouraged to complete basic science and mathematics courses in high school or during their freshman year.

Each department offers an honors program involving research during the senior year. Each department also offers an academic minor for those undergraduates majoring in compatible fields. For the Earth Systems Program, an honors program in Environmental Science, Technology, and Policy is available through the Institute for International Studies.

COTERMINAL BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S DEGREES

The Stanford coterminal degree plan enables an undergraduate to embark on an integrated program of study leading to the master's degree before requirements for the bachelor's degree have been completed. This may result in more expeditious progress towards the advanced degree than would otherwise be possible, making the program especially important to Earth scientists because the master's degree provides an excellent basis for entry into the profession. The coterminal plan permits students to be admitted to a graduate program as early as their eighth quarter at Stanford, or after earning 105 units, and no later than the eleventh quarter.

Under the plan, the student may meet the degree requirements in the more advantageous of the following two ways: by first completing the 180 units required for the B.S. degree and then completing the three quarters required for the M.S. degree; or by completing a total of 15 quarters during which the requirements for the two degrees are completed concurrently. In either case, the student has the option of receiving the B.S. degree upon meeting all the B.S. requirements or of receiving both degrees at the end of the coterminal program. Students earn degrees in the same department or program, in two different departments, or even in different schools; for example, a B.S. in Physics and an M.S. in Geological and Environmental Sciences. Students are encouraged to discuss the coterminal program with their advisers during their junior year. Additional information is available in the individual department offices.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Admission to the Graduate Program—A student who wishes to enroll for graduate work in the school must be qualified for graduate standing in the University and also must be accepted by one of the school's three departments or the interdisciplinary Ph.D. program. One requirement for admission is submission of scores on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Exam. Admission to one department of the school does not guarantee admission to other departments.

Faculty Adviser—Upon entering a graduate program, the student should report to the head of the department or program who arranges with a member of the faculty to act as the student's adviser, if that has not already been established through prior student-faculty discussions. The student, in consultation with the adviser, then arranges a course of study for the first quarter and ultimately develops a complete plan of study for the degree sought.

Financial Aid—Detailed information on scholarships, fellowships, and research grants is available from the school's individual departments and programs. Applications should be filed by the various dates listed in the application packet for awards that become effective in Autumn Quarter of the following academic year.