

PALEONTOLOGY MINOR

Banner Code: PLEO

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Students interested in the evolution of life on Earth can take this minor in association with degrees from any field of study across the university. Fundamental courses include historical geology, invertebrate paleontology and vertebrate paleontology.

This has been designated a Green Leaf program.

Admissions & Policies

Policies

Eight credits of coursework must be unique to the minor. For policies governing all minors, see AP.5.3.4 Minors.

Requirements

Minor Requirements

Total credits: 18-21

This is a Green Leaf program.

Students should refer to the Admissions & Policies tab for specific policies related to this program.

Students must successfully complete the following coursework with a minimum GPA of 2.00.

Required Core

Code	Title	Credits
GEOL 102	Introductory Geology II (Mason Core)	4
GEOL 312	Invertebrate Paleontology	4
GEOL 334	Vertebrate Paleontology	4
or BIOL 334	Vertebrate Paleontology	
Total Credits		12

Electives

Many of the courses below have additional prerequisites beyond the required core courses above; please check the individual courses carefully.

Code	Title	Credits
Select two courses from the list below or choose Option One, Option Two, Option Three, or Option Four:		
GEOL 304	Sedimentary Geology	
GEOL 364	Marine Geology	

GGS 321	Biogeography	
or BIOL 374	Biogeography: Space, Time, and Life	
BIOL 377	Applied Ecology	
BIOL 470	Dinosaur Biology	
BIOL 471	Evolution	
BIOL 468	Vertebrate Natural History	
or EVPP 468	Vertebrate Natural History	
Total Credits		6-9

Option One

Code	Title	Credits
BIOL 310	Biodiversity	5
& BIOL 330	and Biodiversity Lab and Recitation	
Select one from the following:		4
BIOL 320	Comparative Chordate Anatomy	
BIOL 322	Developmental Biology	
& BIOL 323	and Lab for Developmental Biology	
BIOL 331	Invertebrate Zoology	
BIOL 332	Insect Biology	

Option Two

Code	Title	Credits
BIOL 308	Foundations of Ecology and Evolution	5
BIOL 468	Vertebrate Natural History	4
or EVPP 468	Vertebrate Natural History	

Option Three

Code	Title	Credits
GEOL 309	Introduction to Oceanography	3
or BIOL 309	Introduction to Oceanography	
EVPP 419	Marine Mammal Biology and Conservation	3

Option Four

Code	Title	Credits
BIOL 305	Biology of Microorganisms	3
BIOL 407	Microbial Diversity	4