

# 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          |     |
| 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       |

#### 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       |