

## Highlights for Advisement in Geological Sciences and Geophysics

**Please encourage your advisees to have their senior records check in Flinn Hall BEFORE their final semester begins!**

**Registration for Fall 2016 courses begins April 11. Students must bring their signed advisement sheets to PSC 108 before they will be cleared for registration.**

**A. Helpful websites:**

**Self Service Carolina:** To see academic information for your advisees, log into Self Service Carolina (<http://my.sc.edu>), click Faculty Services, then Student Information, then Advisee List: you will see all of your advisees with easy links to their transcripts and test scores. You can also easily email all of your advisees through this portal.

**SEOE Advisement:** Includes Advisement FAQs, degree checklists, and commonly requested forms <http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/seoe/undergrad/>

**B. Senior records check:** Students who have completed 90 hours or are within two semesters of graduation should complete a major program card (with their advisor!) and take it to the Dean's office, 110 Flinn Hall for a senior records check. *Students who wait until their final semester for a senior records check may find themselves short a class and therefore unable to graduate.* Note that students need 128 credits, including electives, to graduate; PEDU courses do not count toward graduation.

**C. Transfer Credit for ENGL 102:** Under the Carolina Core, ENGL 102 has an Information Literacy component not taught at other schools. Students who take ENGL 102 elsewhere should take LIBR 101 (1 credit) to meet the INF requirement.

**D. Degree Requirements:** See the EOS Undergraduate Handbook, academic bulletin ([www.sc.edu/bulletin](http://www.sc.edu/bulletin)) or the degree checklists for complete requirements for the General Major in Geological Sciences, Intensive Major in Geological Sciences, Intensive Major with Concentration in Marine Geology, General Major with Concentration in Environmental Geosciences, and BS in Geophysics.

**E. Curriculum Changes:** Beginning in Fall 2016, GEOL 202 Rocks and Minerals has been renumbered to GEOL 302; GEOL 548 has changed from 3 to 4 credits; GEOL 345 has been restructured and renamed Igneous and Metamorphic Processes; GEOL 355 has been restructured and renamed Structural Geology and Tectonics. Geophysics majors will select one of GEOL 315, 325 or 345, rather than being required to take both GEOL 345 and GEOL 355. Also beginning Fall 2016, the BS in Geological Sciences will require 120 credit hours, not 128.

**F. GEOL Course Prerequisites:**

Course	Prerequisites
302 Rocks and Minerals	Introductory GEOL, CHEM 111 (co-req okay)
305 Earth Systems Through Time	
315 Earth Surface Processes	PHYS 201 or 211
325 Stratigraphy & Sedimentary Basins	GEOL 302

335 Global Climate Change	
345 Igneous & Metamorphic Processes	PHYS 201 or 211, GEOL 302
355 Structural Geology & Tectonics	PHYS 201 or 211, GEOL 302
500 Field Camp	GEOL 325, 355 or consent of instructor
524 Environ Radioisotope Geochem	CHEM 111, 112 and MATH 141
555 Elementary Seismology	MATH 241 or consent of instructor
575 Numerical Modeling	MATH 142 (MATH 241 recommended)
582 Marine Hydrodynamics	Differential equations, PHYS 201 or 211, or consent of instructor

- G. CHEM 111:** Note that MATH 115 is a required prerequisite for CHEM 111. Students will no longer be allowed to take MATH 115 and CHEM 111 at the same time. Also note that students must now register for CHEM 111 and CHEM 111L separately (the 4-credit course has been split into 3- and 1-credit courses.)
- H. GEOL 302:** Rocks and Minerals should be taken during the sophomore year, unless an incoming or transfer student already has a background in introductory geology.
- I. Field Camp:** GEOL 500 takes place in cooperation with the University of Georgia for six weeks of fieldwork in Cañon City, Colorado and surrounding environs. In addition to stops on the way from Athens, Georgia to Cañon City, students take additional major field trips to the Arches-Canyonlands and Book Cliffs areas of eastern Utah, and the Jemez Mountains of New Mexico and San Juan Mountains of Colorado. This six-credit summer course takes place during May and June. Currently students will graduate in August and have the option to walk in May or December if they complete the required forms.
- J. The Concentration in Environmental Geosciences** has been amended to require GEOL 355 and one of the following: GEOL 305, GEOL 371, and GEOL 548.
- K. Cognate:** Students must take 12 credits of related coursework outside of the Department of Earth and Ocean Sciences, depending on their individual interests. A list of cognate courses may be found in the Undergraduate Academic Bulletin ([www.sc.edu/bulletin](http://www.sc.edu/bulletin)). In general, some courses at the 200-level and most courses at the 300-level and above may be used for cognate credit; 399 courses are generally not used for fulfilling the cognate requirement. *Cognate courses do not all have to come from the same discipline or department.* Grades of D are acceptable for completion of the cognate requirement. Geophysics majors will satisfy their cognate requirements using the math and statistics courses required for the degree.
- L. Degree with Distinction:** Students who wish to participate in significant research activities may choose to graduate with distinction. Requirements are listed on pages 14 and 19 of the Undergraduate Handbook and include a minimum GPA of 3.5 in the major and 3.3 overall, some additional coursework, and a public presentation of a Senior Thesis.
- M. Withdrawals, Courses at other Universities:** Once a student enrolls in a course, he or she must complete the course at a USC campus. For instance, if a student withdraws from Math 141, or

receives a D or F, he or she must retake MATH 141 at USC Columbia or a regional campus (Sumter, Lancaster, Salkahatchie or Union) although he may opt to take MATH 142 elsewhere. Students who are struggling to pass MATH 141 or CHEM 111 should be encouraged to take the second course in the sequence (MATH 142 or CHEM 112) elsewhere (i.e. at home or Midlands Tech). Some students who have struggled to pass MATH 142 at USC Columbia found it easier and less stressful at USC Sumter; students with a car can take that course concurrently with other courses at the Columbia campus by completing a Transient Enrollment Form (available on the Registrar's website).

- N. "Performance" Courses:** Many courses in Music, Theater, and Physical Education do not count toward the 128 semester hours needed for graduation. In general, music and theater appreciation or history (3 credits) will count, but learning to play an instrument or to act (1 credit) will not.
- O. Placement tests:** No student can register for a math course without first taking an online placement exam (or showing proof of transfer credit for prerequisite math coursework.) Students who place into MATH 141 may still take MATH 115 first to strengthen background and will receive credit. The Math department also offers an accelerated course, MATH 116, which lasts for half a semester and is specially designed for students who placed into Calculus but feel they first need a refresher to succeed in it.

Students wishing to take a foreign language at anything other than the first/beginner level must first take a placement exam in that language. Placement exams are offered on campus at the beginning of each semester. Students will not receive academic credit if they take a course lower than the level at which they placed. Students who are already proficient in a language other than English should contact the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures to inquire about exemption from the foreign language requirement.

- P. Confidentiality:** As advisors, you should be aware that it is a violation of a student's right to privacy for you to reveal any information regarding the student's performance to anyone outside the university without expressed consent of the student. This includes addresses, phone numbers, transcript information or even their performance in your course. **Under Federal Law, parents do not have access to this information without the student's written consent.** Refer requests to the Office of the Registrar.

**Q. Disabilities, Emotional Problems:**

1. Students with physical or learning disabilities should contact Student Disability Services at (7-6142)
2. For students with emotional problems (e.g., depression tendencies), refer to the Counseling and Human Development Center, Close/Hipp Building, (7-5223). For severely distressed individuals contact the Behavioral Intervention Team (7-4333).

**Q. Research Opportunities:** PLEASE encourage students to get involved!! Help them to determine career goals, secure positions in faculty research labs, find out about summer internships and REUs, to actively participate in research opportunities within the program and university in general and to investigate study abroad or take summer field courses.

**R. Grade Forgiveness:** It is the policy of the University of South Carolina that every currently enrolled fully-admitted, degree-seeking undergraduate earning a “D+”, “D”, “F” or “WF” in a USC course may take up to two (2) undergraduate courses for a second time for the purpose of grade forgiveness. Both the first and second grades shall appear on the USC permanent record, but only the second grade will be used in computing the University of South Carolina cumulative grade point average. An explanatory notice will appear on the record. Once grade forgiveness is applied to a repeated course, the action may not be revoked.

Eligible students wishing to apply the course grade forgiveness policy to a course enrollment may do so at any time during his/her undergraduate enrollment, but no applications will be honored after the degree is awarded. Grade forgiveness can only be applied once per course for a maximum of two courses (not to exceed 8 credits) on a student’s undergraduate academic record, without regard to the number of degrees sought.

For a course taken the first time before the Fall 2012 semester, the forgiven and repeated class must both be taken at the same USC campus. The grade forgiveness policy was revised for 2012-13, so that for a course taken the first time during or after the Fall 2012 semester, the original course (first attempt) and the second attempt in the same course may be taken at the USC-Columbia campus or a USC regional campus (Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter or Union). This does not apply to courses taken at USC Aiken, USC Beaufort and USC Upstate. Courses transferred from other institutions are excluded from this policy.

This policy does not preclude students from repeating classes multiple times, in accordance with program requirements, but only the second attempt at the class may forgive the original grade of D+, D, F, or WF. Only a regular letter grade can replace a forgiven grade. Grades of “W”, “I”, “S”, “U”, or “AUDIT” may not replace previous grades. Grades carrying an honor code violation sanction of “X” are not eligible for grade forgiveness.

Grade forgiveness does not apply to courses taken prior to Fall 2007.