Department of Geology

The Department of Geology of the Mayagüez Campus offers Bachelor's and Masters of Science degrees in Geology.

The Bachelorship is a 4-year program which requires the student complete 141 credits. It includes a field related course which is taken during summer between the 3rd y 4rth year, and 1year of supervised investigation by a member of our faculty.

Summary of credits for the Bachelor's Program

Faculty Requisites	50
Department Requisites	
Area of specialization	46
General Area	24
Recomended Electives	9
Free Electives	12
Total	141

The master's program consists of 32 credits, of which 6 of them are of investigations conducive to a thesis, 2 credits are seminars and 3 credits are from the Geology and Tectonics of the Caribbean course. A master's student can take up to 6 credits in other department's courses.

The Department of Geology has the goal to prepare students with a strong base in geological knowledge with an array of the most modern techniques for data collection.

Curriculum

First Year

MATE[1]	3171	3	MATE[1]	3172	3
INGL[1]	_____	3	INGL[1]	_____	3
QUIM	3131	3	QUIM	3132	3
QUIM	3133	1	QUIM	3134	1
ESPA[1]	_____	3	ESPA[1]	_____	3
GEOL	3025	3	GEOL	3026	3
GEOL	3047	1			16
		17			

Second Year

MATE	3031	4	MATE	3032	4
INGL	_____	3	INGL	_____	3
CIBI	3031	3	CIBI	3032	3
GEOL	3055	3	GEOL	3056	3
GEOL	4017	3	GEOL	4006	3
		16			16

Third Year

ESPA	_____	3	ESPA	_____	3
FISI	3151	3	FISI	3152	3
FISI	3153	1	FISI	3154	1
COMP	_____	3	EDFI	_____	1
GEOL	4045	3	GEOL	4009	3
GEOL	4046	3	ELEC	LIBRE	6
EDFI	_____	1			17
		17			

Summer

GEOL	4018	6

Fourth Year

GEOL	4049	2	GEOL	4055	2
GEOL	4011	1	GEOL	4012	1
ELEC	GEOL	3	ELEC	GEOL	3
ELEC[2]	REC	3	ELEC[2]	REC	3
ELEC	LIBRE	3	ELEC	LIBRE	3
CISO[3]	_____	3	CISO[3]	_____	3
HUMA	3111	3	HUMA	3112	3
		18			15

Total number of credits: 141

[1]These courses can be disregarded if the student has taken advanced placement score exams with the required grade point average.

[2]Science Electives (not Geology), Mathematics, Engineering, Agronomy and Economics.

[3]Cuorses in socio-humanistics, to choose from: CISO, SOCI, HIST, ANTR, PSIC, GEOG, CIPO y ECON.

UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO
MAYAGÜEZ CAMPUS
FACULTY OF ARTS Y SCIENCES
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Updated: June 2026

Field Trip to San Sebastían 2023

Paleontology Field Trip to Isabela, 2023

¿What is Geology?

Geology is the study of the Earth. The more we know about our planet, especially about its environment and resources, the better we can understand and appreciate it.

Geology has contributed greatly to civilization, both technologically and economically. Among the concepts learned from geological studies is the knowledge of the age of the Earth and the development of the geologic time scale. This begins almost 5 billion years ago, when our planet was formed.

Geology has also taught us that our planet is dynamic and constantly changing, both in its biological and physical aspects. Evidence of these changes through time is shown by fossils and tectonic plates.

The economic contribution of geology to civilizations is demonstrated through the exploration of mineral resources. Geologists discover deposits of fossil fuels, metals, and minerals that produce the energy on which our civilization is based.

Geologists also contribute to solving other problems, such as urban development. The growth of cities has resulted in the construction of large structures, such as buildings and dams.

Geology helps design the foundations of these structures. In the past, engineering projects have failed because of negligence due to a lack of understanding of simple and common geological principles. Dams are affected because they are built near active faults. Houses are impacted by landslides because they are constructed on the slopes of hills or mountains. In Puerto Rico, there is a need for earthquake-resistant structures, and geologists can provide the necessary subsurface information so these can be designed correctly.

The most important geological principle is that the processes of change occurring on Earth have been happening throughout geologic time. Geology is based mainly on observation and seeks to determine the history of the Earth. Geologists can be considered detectives investigating our planet.

Brochure available at:

https://www.uprm.edu/geology/department-and-degree-information/