

Sample 4-Year Plan: Geology B.S. (2026)

This is one way a student can complete this program in four years if the student requires no remedial courses.

FIRST YEAR	Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
	GLY 100 Careers in Geoscience	1	GLY 115 History of the Earth	3
✓ Get to know your faculty. Talk with them about research opportunities. ✓ Attend Career Development Center workshops to learn how to build your resume. ✓ Join the Geology Club.	Gen Ed Written Communication I: ENG 101 Writing for College and Beyond ¹	4	CHE120 General Chemistry I ²	3
			CHE 120L General Chemistry I Laboratory ²	1
	General Education Course	3	GLY 100-level elective	3
	General Education Course	3	MAT 119 Pre-Calculus Mathematics	3
	GLY 110 Earth Science with Lab	4	Gen Ed Oral Communication: CMST 101 Public Speaking ¹	3
	Total	15	Total	16
SECOND YEAR	Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
	GLY 100-level elective	3	GLY 335 Mineralogy and Petrology	4
✓ Consider becoming a Teaching Assistant (TA) for GLY 110 (GLY 396). ✓ Develop your resume. Do a preliminary audit at the end of the year to be sure you are on track to graduate. ✓	PHY 211 University Physics with Laboratory I ³	4	GLY 340 Environmental Geoscience	3
	Gen Ed Written Communication II: ENG 102 Writing and Research ¹	3	GLY 300/400 elective (+ ANT/GEO) ⁴	4
	GLY 300/400 elective (+ ANT/GEO) ⁴	4	General Education Course	3
	Total	14	Total	14
THIRD YEAR	Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
	GLY 450: Hydrogeology	4	GLY 330 Geomorphology	4
✓ Take a leadership role in the Geology Club. ✓ Consider being a geology tutor with the NKU Learning Assistance Programs. ✓ Engage in research with faculty by taking GLY 392 as an elective. ✓ Look into internships.	GLY 300/400 elective (+ ANT/GEO) ⁴	3-4	General Education Course	3
	MAT 128 Calculus A or MAT 129 Calculus I or STA 205 Introduction to Statistical Methods	3-4	GLY 415 Geographic Information Systems ⁶	3(4)
	General Education Course	3	GLY 300/400 elective (+ ANT/GEO) ⁴	3-4
	(Optional) GLY 396 Laboratory Assistant ⁵	1	(Optional) GLY 392 Directed Research ⁵	1
	Total	16	Total	16
FOURTH YEAR	Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
	GLY 420 Stratigraphy and Sedimentation	4	GLY 300/400 elective (+ ANT/GEO) ⁴ for a total of 17 upper-level geology elective credits	4
✓ Consider becoming a TA for an upper-level GLY course. ✓ If you're considering graduate school, prepare for the admission tests (e.g., GRE). Take the test. ✓ Begin your job search.	GLY 315 Structural Geology	4	Elective to graduate with 120 hours	3
	Elective (either Gen Ed or GLY)	3	Upper-level elective to graduate with 45 upper-level credits	4
	(Optional) GLY 392 Directed Research ⁵	3	(Optional) GLY 396 Laboratory Assistant ⁵	1
			Elective (either Gen Ed or GLY)	3
	Total	14	Total	15
			Grand Total	120

This plan is ONE way in which you can complete your degree program in 4 years; it is not the only way. It assumes that you do not have to take any developmental courses (courses numbered below 100), that you start with MAT 129, that you are not a transfer student, and you are beginning in the fall semester.

Notes:

¹Regarding General Education, as shown on this plan, the Geology program highly recommends that you complete one oral and one written communication class during your first year and the second written communication class in your second year. The Natural Sciences and Mathematics/Statistics requirements will be satisfied by the required physics, math, and chemistry courses for the major. How you sequence the remainder of the General Education program is up to you.

²CHE 120 is highly suggested to be taken early in a GLY student's college schedule as it should be taken before GLY 335: Mineralogy and Petrology, and several upper-level elective courses.

³PHY 211 should be taken before GLY 315: Structural Geology.

⁴The Geology BS requires 17 elective hours at the 300 or 400 level. These courses have a variable schedule. Some courses from ANT and GEO count, to emphasize the multidisciplinary nature of Geology.

⁵GLY 392: Directed Research and 396: Assistant in Undergraduate Laboratory may be taken at any time so their timing is very flexible and should be taken as suggestions in this 4-year-plan. These electives are highly recommended for your education, but are also a good way to fill in extra credits in an otherwise light semester. Note that while GLY 396 does not count toward the BS, it supports students' geological knowledge and offers teaching experience. GLY 392 is an excellent way to develop critical thinking and quantitative skills outside of the classroom and looks especially impressive on a resume.

⁶GLY 415 is a Core course for the Geology BS, but it is common to substitute GEO 418 for this if GLY 415 is not currently offered. Note that GEO 418 is 4 credits, while GLY 415 is 3 credits.