



Field Trips

Every few years, the entire EEPS Department goes on a field trip! However, this is not just a “load up the yellow school bus and take your sack lunch” field trip. The trip focuses on what is referred to as a “type-locale”. What this means is that EEPS faculty choose a famous representative location from around the world to observe particular geological features or processes. Past locations have included the big island of Hawaii to observe a live volcano. Another went to the Swiss and Italian Alps which provide rare exposures of Earth’s upper mantle, and to see how the mountains were built as a function of plate tectonics and the convergence of European and African plates. Over the last ten or so years, EEPS has gone from the warm blue waters of the caribbean to the hot deserts of Africa.

Past Destinations:

- Hawaii
- Belize
- California
- Texas
- Cuba
- The Alps
- Canadian Rockies
- Spain
- Chile
- Antarctica
- US Rockies
- Morocco
- Turkey
- Ireland



Research Opportunities

Many Rice EEPS undergraduates participate in research activities under the supervision of Rice Professors. This research may lead to a seniors honors thesis and recognition for Distinction in Research upon graduation. Student projects involve laboratory work, data acquisition and/or field work in far flung parts of the world, including oceanographic expeditions and more. Students write up their conclusions and may attend international science meetings to present their results. These kinds of experiences are what employers and graduate schools are looking for!

Career Opportunities

EEPS graduates have many opportunities to pursue and establish exciting careers in a number of sectors. Many of our alumni have found enriching careers in energy, the environment, government and public policy, education, academics, and even the medical field. The department also has a very active alumni organization so that former students can benefit from alumni gatherings and events. The department has its own, exclusive alumni FaceBook page so that members can keep in touch with each other, make postings of personal events, and and update their professional career changes.

Undergraduate Faculty for EEPS

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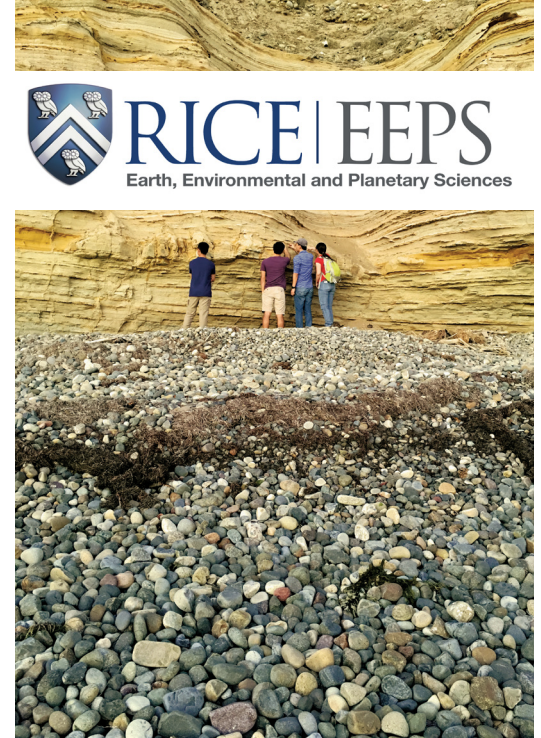
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B.S. & B.A. PROGRAMS

in

Earth, Environmental and
Planetary Sciences

Do You Want To:

- Sail around Antarctica?
- Climb active volcanoes?
- Sail the world's oceans and coral reefs?
- Help understand the global environment?
- Join geophysical expeditions?
- Learn advanced laboratory skills?
- Study the Earth's deep interior?
- Explore our solar system and beyond?

Come and explore the undergraduate B.S. and B.A. degrees offered by Rice's Department of Earth, Environment, and Planetary Sciences (EEPS). EEPS undergraduates can choose among several concentrations and associated research projects. Work closely with world-renowned research scientists who also happen to be our faculty! Some students may use their research as part of a senior honors thesis program.



Undergraduates can choose tracks in geology, geophysics, geochemistry, environmental geology, and more. All undergraduates take a six-course sequence, typically in their sophomore and junior years. These core courses encompass Earth processes, materials, observations, and history. EEPS majors also take introductory courses in mathematics, chemistry, and, in most cases, physics and biology. The selection of upper division courses and additional science courses depends on the degree (B.S. or B.A.). A honor's thesis project is also available.



The B.S. degree is for students planning a career in Earth Science or a related field. The B.A. in Earth Science degree has fewer requirements and might be a good choice for students planning a career for which Earth Science is supplementary. All tracks typically include experience with analytical equipment, computer systems and fieldwork.

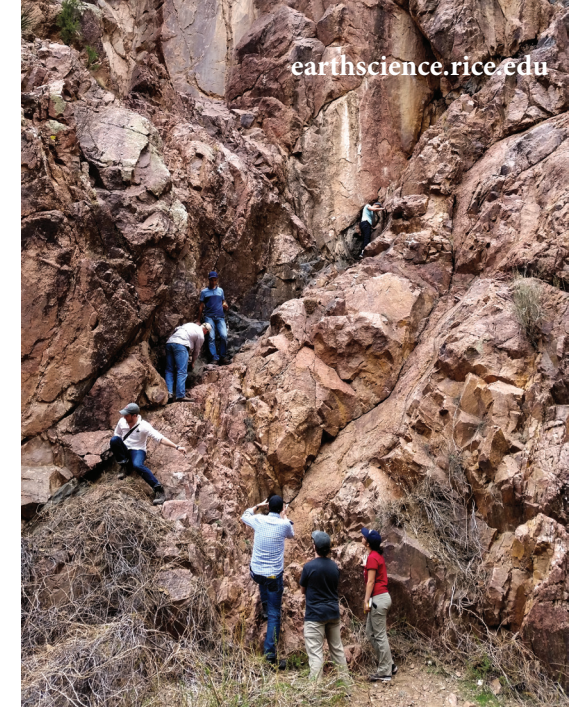
Most students with a Bachelor's degree in Earth Science elect to continue their education in graduate school. They may seek a Master's degree in order to put their geological, geophysical or geochemical knowledge to work in industry, governmental agencies, or environmental firms. Some may seek a Doctorate degree in order to work in academia, industry research groups, or government agencies. Rice undergraduates are well prepared for graduate study, and are sought out by the finest universities in the U.S. and abroad.

About Rice and Houston

Houston is the center of the world's energy industry. Folks here say that you can't throw a rock in Houston without hitting a geologist! The Department benefits from the tremendous geological and geophysical expertise just down the street or across Houston. These industry scientists come to our weekly seminars, visit to give lectures for our classes, and in some cases teach entire courses in their areas of expertise.

Houston is also the home of the NASA Johnson Space Center, the stomping ground of astronauts and the study of planetary science and planetary materials. The Lunar and Planetary Institute, situated near NASA, is a research organization focused on exploring our solar system. Our faculty and students collaborate with their scientists, including visits to and use of NASA facilities.

All these opportunities and resources translate into jobs and world-class research opportunities!



What can you do with a degree in Earth Science?

Earth scientists follow many paths of exploration and discovery in quest of solutions to some of society's most challenging problems:

- Finding adequate supplies of natural resources.
- Conserving soils and maintaining agricultural productivity.
- Developing natural resources in ways that safeguard the environment.
- Maintaining quality of water supplies.
- Reducing human suffering and property loss from natural hazards.
- Determining geological controls on natural environments and habitats and predicting the impact of human activities on them.
- Understanding global climate patterns and climate change.
- Discovering new frontiers on Earth and beyond.