

Summary

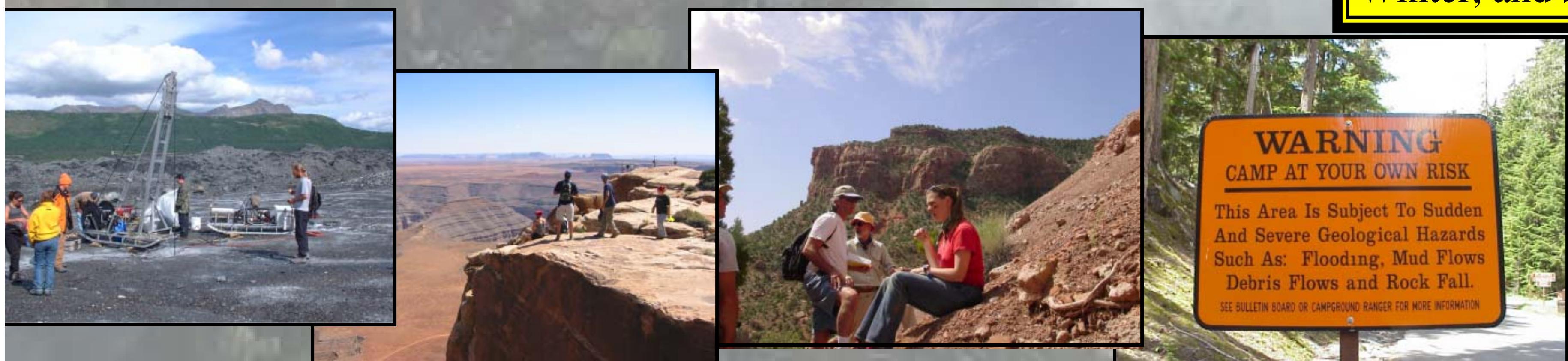
As of 2004, the University at Buffalo includes approximately 27,000 students (15,000 undergraduates) and 1,100 full-time faculty (97% with PhD or terminal degree), so the **student to faculty ratio for undergraduates is about 14:1**. The Department of Geology has 10 full-time tenured/tenure-track faculty, two research (non-tenure-track) faculty, and two adjunct (non-tenure-track) faculty instructors. There are currently **75 undergraduate** majors (39 B.A. and 36 B.S; 55% female) and **53 graduate** students (8 M.A., 31 M.S., and 14 PhD). All geology courses are taught by PhD faculty, with the largest undergraduate classes having no more than 30 students and the **typical class size being 14-20**.

Degree Options: BS, BA, Minor, BA/MA

The Department of Geology offers **both BA and BS degrees**, and maintains a strong undergraduate research program. The curriculum for both degrees includes courses of instruction in the major areas of modern geology, with **emphasis on field and laboratory studies** and their quantitative interpretation. The department also conducts a comprehensive month-long summer geological mapping course—with field sites located in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming—to integrate all that students have learned.

Our **BS program is designed for students who enter directly into geology-related employment** upon graduation (e.g., energy resources, environmental consulting, state or national geological surveys), as well as for those who continue on to graduate school. The **B.A. program offers more flexibility in coursework and is designed for students interested in careers outside of geology** that require a strong geological background, such as environmental law, high school earth-science teaching, government policy, and nature writing.

The geology department also offers a combined **BA/MA program designed to be completed in five years**, compared to the six years needed for completion of a conventional BA followed by an MA. This program is designed for students interested in careers outside of geology but requiring graduate-level schooling (i.e., Earth-Science high-school teaching).



Departmental Planning

The faculty in the Department of Geology have, in general, 1 faculty meeting per month and 1-2 day-long faculty retreat(s) per year. Most small day-to-day issues are handled by the Chair in consultation with the faculty via email. Larger issues and decisions are made during faculty meetings. Faculty retreats are a time when our five-year and ten-year plans are reviewed and evaluated for potential changes.



Geology within the UB Community

Our faculty serves the broader UB community via **introductory geology course** sequences (currently 2) that fulfill the natural-sciences general-education requirement of undergraduates. Generally 350-400 students per semester are enrolled in these courses. From a research perspective, our faculty consistently rank within the top 8 of departments in the College of Arts & Sciences in terms of **funding dollars per faculty**; thus, we are respected for our research productivity even though we are a relatively small department. Our faculty have active grants or active research with faculty in Geography, Physics, Engineering, Computer Sciences, Law, and the Medical School.

Signature Educational Program

The **Buffalo Geosciences Program (BGP)** is funded through a continuing grant from the National Science Foundation and is hosted by a partnership of Buffalo State College, Erie Community College, and the University at Buffalo.

We strive to **promote diversity in the Geosciences** by providing unique opportunities to underrepresented student populations.

These goals are achieved through research projects, internships, seminars, field trips, and tutoring/mentoring programs.

For more information, visit www.bgp.buffalo.edu



Other Departmental Activities

Other factors that may influence and attract undergraduate and graduate geology majors include: (a) our popular **field camp**, which is situated in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming (www.geology.buffalo.edu/fieldcamp); (b) our active graduate & undergraduate **geology clubs** that plan trips and “get togethers”; (c) consistent **review and revision of the curriculum** in order to make the course content and course sequences more relevant to today’s demands and expectations of students; and (d) annual Fall, Winter, and Spring department **social gatherings**.

Undergraduate “Advisement Week”

In 2000, “Advisement Week” for undergraduates was instituted, and has proven to be a **positive influence on recruitment and retention** ever since. Every semester the Director of Undergraduate Studies had a mandatory meeting for a minimum of 15 minutes with every major in the program. The mandatory undergraduate advising has resulted in a **significant decrease in course conflicts and delayed graduation**, and an increase in planning effectiveness for the following semesters’ courses (due to accurate foreknowledge of the headcount).



For more information...

Contact the Director of Undergraduate Studies (Dr. Gregory S. Baker) at geology@buffalo.edu or 716-645-6800 ext 6100, or visit www.geology.buffalo.edu