

FIRST YEAR

MIDDLE YEARS

FINAL YEAR

ACADEMIC SUCCESS



DEVELOP

a Course Plan and
Build Academic Skills

- Check out the [Academic Support Zone](#) for writing and tutoring support.
- Consider elective courses that interest you. Brainstorm areas you may want to study in the future.
- Read and understand the [Academic Regulations](#).
- Familiarize yourself with your [myInfo](#) account, self-help, and degree audit tools.
- If you need academic accommodations, meet with our [Student Accessibility Services team](#).
- It's recommended you complete Standard First Aid with Adult CPR as you will need this to take field school.
- Focus on the required science, math and technical writing courses in the first year of the program.
- Familiarize yourself with the requirements for professional practice as a geoscientist by visiting the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario (PGO) [website](#).
- Review your program requirements on the [Academic Calendar](#).

- Attend Academic Skills Prep Sessions offered by the [Academic Support Zone](#).
- Meet with your Chair or a Student Central Professional to discuss your academic progress, and current/future courses.
- Consider post-degree programs that may require specific courses or academic requirements.
- Ensure your degree audit is accurate, including exceptions if any.
- Running into academic challenges? Meet with us early.
- You must complete Standard First Aid with Adult CPR before the end of second year.
- Ensure that you are meeting all requirements for professional practice as a geoscientist
- Learn how to use a petrographic microscope in the second lab courses.
- Learn basic techniques for geological field work in the second year.
- Consider building GIS skills through an elective course.
- Attend Geology department seminars and thesis presentations to learn more about the discipline of geology.
- Choose a potential thesis supervisor and thesis project by the end of your third year.

- Meet with your Chair and [Student Central](#) to ensure you have completed and are in-progress to complete all necessary degree requirements needed for graduation consideration.
- Submit your Intent to Graduate.
- RSVP for convocation ceremonies.
- Understand application requirements, processes and deadlines for future programs of interest.
- Sit down with your Chair to review your degree audit for graduation, to ensure you are on track.
- Build skills in field work and geological mapping in the fourth-year field school.
- Write and present an Honours thesis to demonstrate your skills in scientific research, written communication, oral communication, and project management.
- Submit your final thesis with all required signatures and provide a digital and hardcopy to the Department for archives.

ACADEMIC SKILLS CHECKLIST

- Review your program requirements on the Academic Calendar.
- Visit the Academic Support Zone.
- Meet regularly with the Chair of the Department of Geology to ensure degree requirements are being met.
- Declare your Intent to Graduate.
- Develop professional contacts with faculty instructors.
- Enhance the value of your degree through concentration options.



CONNECT

and Gain Experience
with the Local and
Global Community

- Register in courses that contain in-class experiential learning opportunities such as case studies and labs.
- Meet the Chair of your Department - get to know them, and let them get to know you.
- Ask to volunteer for the department or if faculty knows of any opportunities where you can develop skills.
- Become a member of the Geological Association of Lakehead University (GALU) and Student Chapter of the Society of Economic Geologists (SEG).
- [Join clubs](#) to connect with peers and expand your network beyond the Geology field.

- Develop networks and connect with your academic professors. Engage with their research, visit their office hours, and ask questions.
- Consider studying abroad through Lakehead's [Study Abroad](#) program.
- See what professors are doing, sometimes they look for student workers during the year.
- Practice effective oral communication through class discussions and presentations.
- Consider attending the annual Prospectors and Developers Conference and Trade Show.
- Consider attending the annual Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association meeting; this is a great chance to network with potential employers.
- Become a member of the Geological Association of Lakehead University (GALU) and Student Chapter of the Society of Economic Geologists (SEG).

- Consider working on applied research, such as a thesis project.
- Connect to the local community through attending courses that involve case studies.
- Communicate interest in career-related opportunities with your professor.
- Attend fairs and events, such as the Graduation Fair for all graduating students.
- If you are completing an Honours thesis, consider presenting your research at an academic conference. Many students present at the annual Institute of Lake Superior Geology meeting held in May.
- Join different networking platforms such as [Lakehead Connect](#).

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING CHECKLIST

- Take advantage of local volunteer activities.
- Study abroad through Lakehead International.
- Take advantage of local volunteer activities.
- Join [Lakehead Connect](#) Networking and Mentorship Program to speak to Alumni and Peers!
- Participate in the program's two student societies: GALU and SEG. Attend their events and connect with peers.
- Consider arranging an [Informational Interview](#), which is an excellent way to build interview skills, connect with employers, and discover potential opportunities.
- Learn valuable soft skills and boost your resume by completing [online modules](#).



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PREPARE

for Postgraduation or Career

- Visit the [Career Zone](#) to find out about the career services offered.
- Check out the job bank at mysuccess.lakeheadu.ca to learn about summer job and on-campus opportunities in your program.
- Meet with a Student Central Professional to discuss financial management and funding resources.
- Consider applying for OSAP/Provincial Loan funding.
- Discuss bursary and award opportunities with [Student Central](#).
- It is never too early to start getting experiential experience in Geology. Try to obtain summer employment as a geological field/lab assistant with a mineral exploration company, government geological survey, or environmental consulting firm, or as a summer undergraduate research assistant to a faculty member.

- Start connecting with employers through on campus recruitment events, such as career fairs and employer visits.
- Develop relationships with faculty- future references can be important.
- Consider a [work-study job](#); a great opportunity to gain experience, as well as assist in the cost of your education.
- Review your program requirements with a Student Central Advisor.
- Seek summer employment as a geological field/lab assistant with a mineral exploration company, government geological survey, environmental consulting firm, or as a summer undergraduate research assistant to a faculty member.

- Build career readiness skills by attending resume, job search and interview skills workshops in the Career Zone.
- Attend the Career and Job Fair/Career and Summer Job Fairs to network with employers.
- Consider and discuss graduate school options with your faculty.
- Finish strong with your final year – in many cases, grad programs only look at your last year or two of grades.
- Attend the annual Prospectors and Developers Conference and Trade Show.
- Attend the annual Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association meeting.
- Discuss graduate school opportunities with your Honours thesis supervisor, graduate coordinator, and faculty.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT CHECKLIST

- Apply for job opportunities in your field.
- Create a LinkedIn account.
- Check out [Resources and Tools](#) on the Career Zone Website to learn more about professional development (i.e. Strong Interest Inventory).
- Attend Career Zone job readiness workshops. [Book](#) an appointment to have your resume reviewed.
- [Attend](#) career fairs and employer information sessions.
- Network during Volunteer and Career Fairs.
- Keep track of your skills and experiences for your future cover letters.
- Understand the terms and conditions of your provincial funding to understand the repayment requirements.

▶ What skills do employers want?

- Written and verbal communication skills
- Field mapping and core logging skills
- Critical thinking and time management
- Ability to work independently and part of a team
- Meet requirements to become a Geologist in Training, as outlined on the APGO website
- GIS knowledge
- General computer skills (MS-Office, databases)
- Ability to work with and integrate different types of geological datasets

▶ What skills will I gain with this major?

- An understanding of how the Earth is formed
- The ability to identify rocks and minerals
- The geological and climate hazards facing us today
- An understanding of the mining and exploration industry

▶ What double degrees can I do with this major?

- Education

▶ What graduate degrees could I pursue?

- Masters of Science in Geology/Geoscience/Earth Science
- Master of Science in Environmental Science
- PhD in Geology/Earth Science or Environmental Science

▶ What types of minors can I do?

- Minor options are not specified by the Department of Geology, as our 4-year Honours and Major programs are designed to ensuring students meet the knowledge requirements to become a Professional Geoscientist in accordance with APGO guidelines.
- Students wishing to obtain a minor can accomplish this using their free credit electives, and should consult with the Department Chair.
- Minors are typically obtained in a cognate program (i.e., Geography, Biology, Chemistry and Physics).

▶ What could I add to my degree?:

- GIS training
- Participate in short courses organized by the Student Chapter of the SEG
- Attending local geoscience conferences/meetings and seminars

▶ What careers can I pursue?*

The goal of the program is to ensure students meet the knowledge requirements so they are ultimately able to practice as a registered Professional Geoscientist (P.Geo). Some potential careers include:

- Mineral Resources (mining)
- Oil and Gas
- Museums
- Environmental Geology and Hydrogeology
- Research
- Government Surveys
- Education

*Your career path is not limited to this list. There could be other options to explore!

▶ What field of work are alumni working in?

- Government Survey Geologist
- vProject/Exploration Geologist
- Academia (universities and colleges)
- Environmental Consultant
- Hydrogeologist
- Law and Finance
- Gemology
- Education (high-school teacher)

▶ What percentage of graduates are employed within 2 years after graduation?

- 90.9% of graduates are employed!

STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE

THUNDER BAY (SC0008)

(807) 343-8018
 ssc@lakeheadu.ca
 Monday - Friday | 8:30am - 4:30pm

ORILLIA (OR1021)

(705) 330-4010 x 2118
 orillia.ssc@lakeheadu.ca
 Monday - Friday | 8:30am - 4:30pm

CAREER ZONE

THUNDER BAY (UC00)

(807) 343-8010 x 8264
 careerzone.ssc@lakeheadu.ca
 Monday - Friday | 10:00am - 4:30pm

SOCIAL MEDIA

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