Students are admitted to UCSC with a "proposed major" in most cases, and later petition to officially declare the major. Admission to UCSC does not guarantee acceptance into a particular major. Students must be declared in a major by the end of the second year (or equivalent), so learning about and preparing for a major is a primary goal for first-year students.

**Major:** EARTH SCIENCES, B.S.

**Importance of an early start:** This is a course-intensive and/or sequential program, and students who intend to pursue this major must begin taking classes for the major sometime in their first year at UCSC.

**Qualification requirements and/or prerequisites for the major:** To qualify for any of the Earth sciences majors, students must complete one of the following courses, or their equivalents, with a grade of C or better:

- EART 5; California Geology
- EART 10; Geologic Principles
- EART 20; Environmental Geology

Frosh who intend to pursue this major should do the following things prior to the beginning of fall term...

- Determine your Math Placement by completing an assessment at [http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/enrollment/math/math-placement/mp-aleks-overview.html](http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/enrollment/math/math-placement/mp-aleks-overview.html). If you have completed a college-level math course, or have scored 3 or better on an AP or IB calculus exam, you may be able to use that for placement instead of the ALEKS assessment.

- Students who have taken college-level transferable classes that may apply to the requirements of this major should submit an unofficial transcript to the adviser prior to July 1, in addition to the official transcript that is required by the UCSC Admissions Office.

- Students can take the Chemistry Self Assessment ([http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/enrollment/chem/chem-assessment.html](http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/enrollment/chem/chem-assessment.html)) for assistance in determining when to begin in general chemistry.

...and should take these courses their first term:

- Fall: MATH 11A; Calculus with Applications  
  EART 5/L; California Geology
- Winter: MATH 11B; Calculus with Applications  
  CHEM 1A; General Chemistry
- Spring: MATH 22; Intro Calculus of Several Variables  
  CHEM 1B/M; General Chemistry

**Sample first year plan:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Course(s)</th>
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</table>
| Fall       | MATH 11A; Calculus with Applications  
  EART 5/L; California Geology |
| Winter     | MATH 11B; Calculus with Applications  
  CHEM 1A; General Chemistry |
| Spring     | MATH 22; Intro Calculus of Several Variables  
  CHEM 1B/M; General Chemistry |

**Skills important for success in this major:** Science majors require skills in critical and logical thought, complex problem solving using scientific rules and methods, and deductive and inductive reasoning.

**Other information:** Concentrations in the major include: Environmental Geology, Ocean, Planet, and Science Education.

**Links to More Information:**

- [http://admissions.ucsc.edu/academics/majors/](http://admissions.ucsc.edu/academics/majors/) (general info)
- [http://registrar.ucsc.edu/catalog/programs-courses/](http://registrar.ucsc.edu/catalog/programs-courses/) (major requirements, course descriptions, etc.)
- [http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/earth/](http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/earth/) (program website)

**Questions? Contact an Adviser!**

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